

MUMMY IIT

by

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NOTE: Dialogue in *italics* is in Chinese with English subtitles.

FADE IN:

THE UNIVERSAL PICTURES GLOBE

morphs into a glinting red sphere. PULL BACK TO REVEAL it's the eye of a malevolent-looking dragon that is carved into a massive door. A FEMALE NARRATOR, with a lilting Chinese accent, begins...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Twenty-two centuries ago, China was forged out of the will of one man, its First Emperor, Qin Shihuang.

The doors swing open and EMPEROR QIN SHIHUANG is carried in. He's sitting on a jewel-encrusted jade throne which is lugged by 30 MONGOLIAN EUNUCHS. He is dressed in an extravagant crimson-and-black robe and his face registers only the blank coldness of a dictator. He's just entered...

EXT. PALACE - DAY

A vast walled city comprised of a complex of pavilions, pagodas and ornamental gardens. The Emperor's army fills the monumental courtyard in front of the main palace pavilion. The 100,000 WARRIORS stand in perfectly ordered phalanxes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

His thirst for power was unquenchable and his army was a merciless killing machine. He vowed not to rest until he had conquered the entire world.

As the Emperor is paraded past, the soldiers bow on one knee.

EXT. RIVER OF SPIRITS - DAY

TIGHT ON: A HUMAN SKULL as it is CRUSHED under the weight of a massive stone. PULL BACK to reveal an ancient construction site stretching as far as the eye can see.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He forced his vanquished enemies to construct a great wall which he built over the blighted River of Spirits.

THOUSANDS OF SLAVES haul blocks into place over a snaking dry riverbed that is thickly carpeted with skeletons and skulls.

KEEP PULLING UP over the partially completed Great Wall of China as the image MORPHS into a 20x20 map of the ancient world. It sits on the floor of...

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

The Emperor stands with his Generals, flanked by his devoted eunuch, FU. A magnificent embroidered dragon tapestry shimmers on the wall behind him.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As the years wore on, the Emperor realized that the world was too big to conquer in his lifetime.

Frustrated, the Emperor grabs a sword and sweeps off the model battalions that are spread out across the map.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He had to overcome the one enemy that no man had defeated -- death itself.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

The Emperor watches as a motley crowd of GRIZZLED MEN, WILD-HAIRED HAGS and BESPECTACLED SCHOLARS are escorted in.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He summoned all the mystics, alchemists and wizards in his kingdom and commanded them to find the answer to eternal life.

CAMERA RESTS ON the face of a SHRIVELED OLD SHAMAN as he reacts to the request with fearful trepidation.

MATCH CUT TO:

THE SHAMAN'S FACE. PULL BACK TO REVEAL his head is now pickled in a jar on a shelf. It's just one of a thousand jars containing the heads of other mystics in...

INT. ANCIENT LABORATORY - DAY

The Emperor stands in the middle of this dungeon-like chamber surrounded by smoking vats and billowing vials.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

They taught him mastery of the five elements -- fire, water, earth, metal and stone -- but the mystery of immortality still eluded him.

The Emperor conjures a blue flame in his palm.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor had almost given up hope when he learned of a priestess named Zohora who was versed in the secret languages of antiquity.

EXT. PALACE GATES - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He sent Sun Tzu, his most trusted General, to find her.

The towering doors open and a BATTERY OF WARRIORS canters out on horseback. They are lead by a General, whose striking good looks are etched with nobility. This is SUN TZU.

EXT. BAMBOO FOREST - DAY

Sun Tzu and his men creep toward the stone temple that is nestled among the impossibly tall bamboo trees. A twig SNAPS. He turns and swings up his sword to the throat of a serene beauty, ZOHORA, just as she sweeps up a sword to his. As their eyes meet, there is an instant electric attraction.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Zohora holds on to Sun Tzu as they gallop down a track which runs parallel to the Great Wall. Sun Tzu turns and rides towards the Emperor's palace, which looms in the distance.

INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - DAY

Sun Tzu presents Zohora to the Emperor, who is clearly struck by her beauty.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor gave Zohora access to his vast library.

INT. SCROLL ROOM - PALACE - DAY

Zohora sits at a circular desk in the middle of this colossal bookshelf-filled chamber, poring over boxes of scrolls.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She spent her days studying the ancient texts and her nights...

INT. SUN TZU QUARTERS - NIGHT

Zohora and Sun Tzu are entwined in a passionate embrace.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 ... wrapped in Sun Tzu's arms.

THE CAMERA FINDS the Emperor watching through a window. As his eyes glint with jealousy...

INT. SCROLL ROOM - PALACE - NIGHT

Zohora empties a box of documents onto the table and unrolls a dusty papyrus. It is written in hieratic and features images of Horus and Anubis. As she translates the text, her face fires with excitement.

INT. SUN TZU QUARTERS - NIGHT

Zohora bursts in holding the papyrus.

ZOHORA
The answer! I found it!

EMPEROR
I never doubted you would.

She spins and finds the Emperor in the doorway. She masks her shock and respectfully bows her head.

ZOHORA
My Lord.

He lifts her chin with his finger.

EMPEROR
Where is it?

ZOHORA
Written in a book hidden in the land of the Pharaohs.

Two Eunuchs step out holding Sun Tzu, who's been beaten.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 He ordered Sun Tzu to retrieve the book.

Zohora drops to her knees in front of Sun Tzu and begs.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 But Zohora pleaded that she should go in his place. Egyptian tombs are deadly traps and, without knowledge of their hieroglyphics, he would face certain death.

The Emperor considers her request, unsheathes a dragon-hilted dagger which he holds to Sun Tzu's heart.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor gave her ninety moons
to return or he would execute her
lover.

Sun Tzu and Zohora exchange desperate glances.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Zohora headed west...

Zohora rides like the wind. She spurs her horse up over a dune, revealing the GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA flickering like a mirage. She powers into the blistering heat.

EXT. HAMUNAPTRA - NIGHT

NARRATOR (V.O.)

... to the city of Hamunaptra,
resting place of Imhotep and
sanctuary of the fabled Book of the
Dead.

TWO MUMIA are sitting by a campfire, guarding the entrance, when -- PHHHT! PHHHT! Two bamboo blow-darts hit their necks. As they slump, unconscious, Zohora is revealed. She searches their pockets and retrieves the PUZZLE BOX KEY (from the first "Mummy" movie). As she flowers it open...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ANUBIS' CHAMBER - NIGHT

The impression on the front of the black Book of the Dead. Zohora twists the key and the latches snap open one by one.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Not wishing to incur the wrath of
the great god Anubis, Zohora
fashioned a copy of the sacred text
in terra cotta.

Under Anubis' watchful gaze, Zohora mixes a thick clay.

EXT. HAMUNAPTRA - DAWN

Everything is washed in golden light. Zohora wraps her copy of the Book in a blanket and places it in her saddlebag.

EXT. ZOHORA'S RIDE - NIGHT/DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She rode day and night, determined
no harm would come to Sun Tzu.

Zohora rides across the desert, immune to the scorching sun.
Silhouetted against the moon, she plows across the Himalayas.

Her face is a mask of determination as she races along the
Great Wall, sending WORKERS scattering.

EXT. PALACE - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She returned to the palace on the
eve of the eighty-ninth day.

A snowstorm swirls as Zohora bursts through the gates and
rides past the legions of warriors who are training in the
massive courtyard.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Zohora kneels at the Emperor's feet and holds up the copy of
the Book of the Dead. He beams as he runs his hand across
its surface.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Emperor was so pleased that he
rewarded Zohora with a gift.

The Emperor's Eunuch, Fu, steps forward, holding a lavishly
carved lapis box. Zohora tentatively opens the lid and reels
back when she sees SUN TZU'S HEAD. His glassy eyes stare up.

EMPEROR

*Now I will rule the earth as a god
with you by my side.*

The Emperor grins lecherously.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He ordered her to read from the
Book and make him immortal. But
she refused.

Enraged, the Emperor plunges the dragon-hilted dagger into
her side. As she drops to her knees, the Book falls open and
Zohora WHISPERS an ancient Egyptian incantation.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Instead of granting him everlasting life, Zohora used the Book to curse the Emperor and his beloved army.

The Emperor utters a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM. He tears open his robe, looks at his chest as his skin becomes translucent. Fu and the Eunuchs flee as the Emperor's heart starts to pump

BLACK BLOOD.

The poison courses through the Emperor's body from the inside out. Black veins viper up his arms, legs and neck and fissure across the whites of his eyeballs. The ooze seeps out of his pores, coating his flesh and clothes. Like molten clay, it sheets across his face, sealing his lips and tongue and silencing his agonized cry. When he's fully coated,

ULTRA-BRIGHT RODS OF WHITE LIGHT

needle out of his body. The Emperor jerks upright and his arms swing to his sides as the light fuses his bones and SUPERHEATS the clay shell, hardening it in seconds. When the light dies, the Emperor has been transformed into

A TERRA COTTA MUMMY.

A VOLLEY OF BANSHEE SCREAMS echoes from outside. Zohora peers out as the terra cotta curse washes over the Emperor's warriors like a wave. Their horses SHRIEK as they succumb to the unholy curse, too. Finally, they are all wracked by the blinding spindles of light and are violently snapped to permanent attention as their bodies are entombed in clay.

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

Snow whips as the wounded Zohora gallops across the courtyard, clutching the Book. Tears freeze on her cheeks as she passes the rows of terra cotta soldiers who stand like a clockwork army. She rides into the whiteness.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She rode off into the night and was never seen again.

Snow PINGS off the warriors as CAMERA SWEEPS UP OVER their heads and INTO the window of...

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

PUSH IN ON the Emperor's expressionless face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Eunuchs buried the Emperor in a crypt below the courtyard. As for his warriors, the palace became their tomb.

PUSH into his lifeless eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The people believed that if the Emperor awoke, he would raise his army and finish his crusade to enslave the world.

KEEP PUSHING until THE SCREEN IS ENGULFED IN BLACKNESS and the only sound is EERIE WHISTLING SILENCE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For two millennia, they laid forgotten under the sands of time until...

SUPERIMPOSED across the SCREEN are the words: **CHINA - 1940.**

A shaft of light cuts through the blackness and

A YOUNG MAN

rappels into view. This is ALEX O'CONNELL. He's 18 now, with floppy blond hair and an English accent. He's inherited his father's good looks and his mother's academic intellect.

LILY

Alex, you see anything?

He peers up at LILY CHEN, who's staring through a hole in the roof of the cavern 50 feet above. Lily's about Alex's age and her mysterious beauty is matched by a razor-sharp mind.

ALEX

Not yet, but I know the palace is down here. It has to be.

LILY

That's what you said about the other nine caverns.

ALEX

This is the one, Lily. I'm going deeper.

LILY

I don't think that's a good idea.

ALEX

Trust me, I was rappelling into tombs before I could walk. I'm a pro.

As he loosens the clamp, the rope slides free and Alex is sent plunging into the darkness. Lily reacts as Alex's rope rapidly uncoils at her feet. She SHOUTS into the abyss.

LILY

ALEX! ALEX!

Alex scorches his palms as he desperately tries to reattach his harness to the rope. Finally, he pounds his fist into the head of the clamp, causing its teeth to lock back into place. As the rope jerks him to a stop, he instinctively snatches his glasses out of the air as they tumble free.

LILY

Alex, are you okay?

ALEX

I'm hanging in there.

He pulls out a flare-stick and cracks it open. He holds it out as he slowly twists himself around and comes face to face with a FEARSOME TERRA COTTA WARRIOR. Alex grins.

ALEX

Lily, radio Willoughby, tell him I found it.

INT. TOMB OF THE TERRA COTTA WARRIORS - DAY

Time has turned the palace courtyard into a vast subterranean vault. Warriors are lined shoulder to shoulder. Lily supervises a CHINESE CREW who are illuminating the giant space with torches. Alex waits for an OVERWEIGHT ENGLISHMAN, in a white linen suit, who is awkwardly clambering off a rope ladder. This is SIR COLIN WILLOUGHBY.

WILLOUGHBY

My colleagues at the Bembridge Society thought I was crazy to put my faith and money in an O'Connell. But I knew you could do it, Alex.

ALEX

Thank you, Sir Colin. That means a great deal coming from you.

Willoughby pulls a magnifying glass from his pocket and rudely brushes past Lily as he crosses to admire a warrior.

WILLOUGHBY

Look at the detail. I wonder how long they took to carve.

LILY

They weren't carved, they were cursed.

WILLOUGHBY

According to whom?

LILY

Chinese legend. The terra cotta warriors have remained poised in time, waiting for their Emperor to return.

WILLOUGHBY

Alex, you should tell your girlfriend not to put so much stock in old folklore.

Alex awkwardly shuffles.

ALEX

Actually, Lily's not my girlfriend. She's a Ph.D. student at Shanghai University. I couldn't have found this tomb without her help.

Willoughby regards Lily, skeptical.

WILLOUGHBY

What's your field of expertise?

LILY

Ancient Chinese history and languages.

Unimpressed, Willoughby turns back to Alex.

WILLOUGHBY

Once you take the Bembridge oath, I trust you'll leave such fairy-tale hokum behind.

ALEX

But only full scholars take the oath.

WILLOUGHBY

You are our youngest associate, now I predict you'll be our youngest scholar. They couldn't deny you after this discovery.

ALEX

Sir Colin, I don't know what to say. That's been my dream ever since I desecrated my first tomb.

Before Alex can correct himself, Willoughby wraps him in a sweaty bear hug.

WILLOUGHBY

You've got a lot of work ahead of you. This place is going to take decades to excavate.

As Willoughby puffs his way down a row of warriors, Alex turns to Lily, grinning like a kid at Christmas.

ALEX

Alex O'Connell, Bembridge Scholar. Wait until my mum hears about this.

LILY

You don't need that pompous ass Willoughby to validate you. It would take him three lifetimes to learn what you already know.

He smiles, looks at her, clearly enchanted.

ALEX

Lily, I was wondering when we get back to Shanghai if maybe we could do something together, you know, that doesn't involve digging holes or climbing down ropes.

LILY

Is that your way of asking me out on a date?

He nods shyly. Although touched, she lets him down gently.

LILY

I'd love to, but I kind of make it a rule not to date colleagues.

ALEX

Of course, absolutely, good thinking. Wouldn't want to blur the lines with all the work we've got ahead of us.

OFF Alex masking his disappointment as she heads away...

CUT TO:

A BRUSH -- flicks the dust from the dragon insignia that embellishes the chest plate of a terra cotta warrior. Alex stands back, confused, as Lily steps to his side.

LILY

Everything okay?

Alex points to three pairs of terra cotta warriors who stand side by side and bear the Emperor's insignia.

ALEX

You have any idea what six of the Emperor's personal bodyguards are doing in the middle of a formation of foot soldiers?

LILY

Maybe they got lost.

ALEX

They would never have left his side.

Alex bends down, sweeps away some dirt, revealing a track-like groove. He looks back at Lily and grins...

ALEX

You want to meet an Emperor?

Alex steps between the first pair of warriors, puts his hands on their chests and pushes them over. The statues slam into the ones behind them, knocking them over like bowling pins. As the third pair topple, they lurch to a stop and a doorway GRINDS OPEN in the floor between the six statues. OFF Alex and Lily's excitement...

INT. CRYPT - DAY

Four stone Chimera, mythical dragon-like tomb guardians, stand in the corners of the chamber as Alex leads Lily and Willoughby down the steps. The trio stares in awe at the Emperor's ornate sarcophagus. It's sitting on a carriage harnessed to a chariot drawn by four bronze horses.

WILLOUGHBY

The final resting place of Emperor Qin Shihuang. You've guaranteed your place in the history books with this one, my boy.

Willoughby steps to the sarcophagus. It's carved out of red jade and is inlaid with the Emperor's dragon insignia.

WILLOUGHBY

I want the sarcophagus taken to the British Embassy in Shanghai for safe keeping immediately.

Alarmed, Lily steps in front of Willoughby.

LILY

No, the Emperor can't leave this chamber!

WILLOUGHBY

I don't remember requesting your opinion on the matter.

LILY

If you move the Emperor, you'll be making a huge mistake.

Willoughby rolls his eyes, turns to Alex.

WILLOUGHBY

I suggest you have a word with your lady friend if you want her to remain on this dig.

Alex waits until Willoughby exits.

ALEX

Lily, we're archaeologists. We don't dig something up to leave it behind. We have to take it back and study it.

LILY

The ancient scrolls say that if the Dragon Emperor awakes, he will lay waste to the entire world.

ALEX

In order to raise a mummy, you need the Book of the Dead. There's only one copy and, trust me, it's buried under the Sahara.

Alex turns away, studies the lid of the sarcophagus.

ALEX
This guy's just terra cotta and
bone. He couldn't hurt a fly.

As his hand brushes over the dragon insignia, Lily sees the
stone Chimeras' mouths snap open.

LILY
GET DOWN!

She dive-tackles Alex and they roll under the chariot just as
ROARING 20-foot jets of flame shoot out of the mouths of the
Chimera. When the inferno ends, Lily looks at Alex.

LILY
I've never seen someone cheat death
so many times.

ALEX
You should meet my parents.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: **AGRA, INDIA.**

Clouds of billowing steam. As it disperses, RICK AND EVY
O'CONNELL are revealed. They're in the middle of a
passionate kiss. They finally come up for air, look into
each other's eyes, clearly still very much in love.

O'CONNELL
Happy anniversary, Evy.

Evy peers through the view-finder of a Baby Brownie camera.

CLOSE ON: An upside down image of the Taj Mahal.

EVELYN
Remember when Alex climbed that
minaret?

O'CONNELL
Yeah, I bet him a year's allowance
he couldn't do it. Then we dodged
the Indian police for two hours.

He smiles sadly as they make their way through the THRONG.

O'CONNELL

I miss being the fun dad Alex
couldn't wait to hang out with.

EVELYN

Well, somewhere between the tombs
of Egypt and the temples of Persia,
your son grew up.

O'CONNELL

I know and I'm really proud of him.
But the truth is he's closer to you
than he is to me.

EVELYN

If you want to know what he's up
to, why don't you read his letters?

O'CONNELL

Honey, they're in ancient Egyptian
with jokes about obscure pharaohs.

EVELYN

He did inherit my wry sense of
humor.

Rick shakes his head. Evy tries to stay positive.

EVELYN

Look, you need to reconnect with
him in your own way. When you were
his age, what did you like?

O'CONNELL

Girls, guns... girls.

EVELYN

Trust me, your son has no time for
romantic dalliances. He's a
freshman at Yale. I'm sure he's
absorbed in his studies.

O'CONNELL

What are you going to do when Alex
finally does bring somebody home?

EVELYN

I'll be fine... as long as she's a
librarian.

As they reach the entrance, Evy scans the crowd.

EVELYN

Any sign of General Okumura?

Rick points to an ASIAN MAN with aristocratic features. This is GENERAL OKUMURA. He's climbing into a bicycle rickshaw.

O'CONNELL

Looks like he's doing some sightseeing.

As they clamber into a rickshaw and follow...

EXT. RICKSHAW - DAY

Rick and Evy trundle through the sweltering odyssey of decrepit traffic, market stalls and cows.

O'CONNELL

I still can't believe you talked me into spying for the British Government.

EVELYN

We're in the middle of a war, Rick. I wanted us to do our part. Besides, I've talked you into worse.

O'CONNELL

You don't even know why you're following him?

EVELYN

The Home Office said the less we know the safer we are. We're just supposed to observe his movements and report back.

O'CONNELL

Lucky your husband likes to live dangerously.

EVELYN

Rick, what did you do?

Rick grins mischievously.

O'CONNELL

Played a little poker with the Defense Minister's brother and let him win occasionally. According to him, Okumura claims to have access to a doomsday weapon.

Evy's instantly intrigued.

EVELYN

And what might that be?

O'CONNELL

Nobody knows, but the Japanese High Command weren't impressed. They bounced Okumura and his followers out of Tokyo faster than you can say sushi.

As Okumura pulls up in front of the Taj Mahal, he is met by TWO FIERCE-LOOKING SIKHS wearing blue turbans.

EVELYN

What's a rogue general doing in India?

O'CONNELL

That's where the spying part comes in.

INT. TAJ MAHAL - DAY

Rick and Evy head into the miraculous domed interior.

ATTENDANT

Shoe! Shoe!

They turn and find an INDIAN MAN pointing to a sign, "NO SHOES!" Rick pulls off his boots and hands them over.

O'CONNELL

Guard them with your life.

Now barefoot, Rick and Evy dash across the marble. They surreptitiously watch as Okumura and his crew head into...

INT. PEACOCK CHAMBER - DAY

Rick and Evy hustle in, then stop in their tracks. There's no sign of Okumura and there's no exit.

O'CONNELL

One way in and no way out.

The walls are covered with marble reliefs of Indian wildlife. Elephants, monkeys, tigers and peacocks. They push and prod at the menagerie. Evy sighs in frustration.

EVELYN

I better take some pictures of
where the trail went cold.

Evy snaps photos while Rick tugs at an elephant statue. He yanks down on its trunk, breaks it off. As he tries to reattach it, Evy lines up a shot and sees something.

EVELYN

Pinch my cheeks.

Rick quickly slips the broken trunk in his pocket.

O'CONNELL

Not now, Honey, we've got a bad guy
to catch.

EVELYN

Look through the view-finder.

She hands him the camera and points to a design inlaid on the wall above a relief of a peacock. Its tail feathers glint with semi-precious stone. As he peers through the camera...

WHAT HE SEES: Viewed upside down, the abstract design now appears to spell out a phrase.

EVELYN

Those symbols are actually
Sanskrit, except they're upside
down and backwards. They spell,
"Pinch my cheeks".

Evy reaches across, pinches the peacock's cheeks causing its "feathers" to fan back into the floor, revealing a doorway.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Old brass lanterns illuminate the network of Moorish corridors and hallways. Rick and Evy come to a recently excavated hole in the floor. Distant VOICES echo from below. Rick drops a stone into the darkness and hears it SPLAT.

O'CONNELL

Sounds soft. After you.

Evy takes a breath, then drops in feet first. Rick follows.

INT. PIT - DAY

The duo torpedoes into the mud. They're up to their necks.

EVELYN

Why is the mud moving?

Both look down and see they've landed in a pit of writhing SLUGS! They slither out, frantically brushing slugs and slime off their clothes.

EVELYN

Disgusting doesn't even begin to describe that.

Rick plucks a slug out of his ear. Evy SQUELCHES up to a filigree grille and peers out.

WHAT SHE SEES: A giant, 50-foot silver statue of the elephant god Ganesh in the middle of a huge subterranean cavern. He holds a sword in each of his eight arms. Like a sinking ship, the whole place is weirdly tilted at an angle.

EVELYN

The Lost Temple of Ganesh. The final repository of...

OKUMURA (O.S.)

... the Eye of Pemako.

As they spin, Rick reaches for his gun but comes out with a handful of slugs. They stare at Okumura, who is flanked by the two sword-wielding Sikhs.

OKUMURA

When I heard the British had sent the infamous O'Connells to spy on me, I was flattered. Expertise like yours is hard to come by.

(beat)

Now, I'm going use it to get me the Eye.

Rick points to the diamond gleaming on Ganesh's forehead.

O'CONNELL

It's right there, get it yourself.

OKUMURA

You of all people should know these ancient temples are full of hidden dangers.

He tosses a flaming torch into the wide well surrounding Ganesh, revealing a pit of slumbering CROCODILES. Their bodies are entwined like a giant jigsaw puzzle. OFF Rick and Evy's distress...

INT. TEMPLE OF GANESH - DAY

Tiny oil lamps flicker in thousands of niches dug out of the walls. Rick stifles A YELP as he stubs his bare foot on the tail of a 20-foot croc.

O'CONNELL

No gun, no shoes and we're walking across a bunch of alligators. Who stays up at night and thinks of this stuff?

EVELYN

Actually, honey, they're Indian crocodiles, far more vicious. But lucky for us, it looks like they're hibernating.

O'CONNELL

Way to find the silver lining, Evy.

He glances at the sword-wielding Sikhs who are following.

O'CONNELL

So what does Okumura want with the Eye of Pemako?

EVELYN

They say the stone points the way to the Spring of Eternal Life which is hidden in Shangri-La.

O'CONNELL

As much as I'd like to take a swig from the fountain of youth and stay this ruggedly handsome forever -- that's a myth.

EVELYN

You used to feel the same way about mummies.

They scramble out of the pit and begin to climb the statue while the Sikhs stand guard at the base.

OKUMURA -- watches the duo clamber up the silver behemoth.

RICK & EVY -- reach the top of the statue. Evy waits behind one of its 6-foot ears while Rick reaches for the giant gemstone. He almost topples as he wrestles it free, hands the stone to Evy. As she examines it, her brow furrows.

EVELYN

Rick, this isn't it.

O'CONNELL

Looks like a big sparkly diamond to me.

She scrapes the stone against the edge of Ganesh's ear, then shows Rick its scarred surface.

EVELYN

Diamonds don't scratch.

A loud METALLIC CLANKING echoes from the belly of the statue. Like a giant clockwork toy, the statue GRINDS to life. Its eight arms swing their razor-sharp swords and its head nods.

RICK AND EVY

try to keep their balance but tumble off. As they plunge towards the pit, Rick drops the diamond but manages to catch hold of one of the statue's eight arms. He reaches out and grabs Evy's hand as she falls past him. As they dangle, Rick sees a sword sweep towards Evy. A second before

THE GLEAMING BLADE

slices her in two, Evy lets go, SCREAMING as she drops. Rick swings up his bare feet as the sword razors under him, then looks down and is relieved to see Evy hanging onto the end of Ganesh's trunk.

OKUMURA -- races down into the pit, BARKS orders to the Sikhs, who begin climbing up onto the statue.

As Sikhs stalk towards Evy, Rick is helpless until he sees three of the statue's arms converge, their swords form a makeshift staircase. Rick bounds across the blades and tackles the Sikhs right off the statue. As they tumble Sikh #1 is impaled on one of Ganesh's swinging swords while Rick and Sikh #2 crash into the croc pit.

OKUMURA -- is unaware of the commotion as he picks up the glass diamond and sees it's veined with cracks. Furious, he SMASHES it against the base of the statue, powdering it.

EVY -- peers into the statue's navel cavity. Two eyes stare back. She reaches in and pulls out a life-size SILVER SKULL. When she plucks it out, CAMERA SHOOT'S INTO THE EMPTY HOLE and ZIGZAGS between the statue's cogs and gears as they

GRIND TO A HALT.

CAMERA DIVES towards the base of the statue as a kinetic furnace unleashes a fury of hot steam. CAMERA FOLLOWS the steam into a maze of pipes and emerges through a grate under Rick, who is lying dazed. He GROANS as his bare feet are seared. He hops out of the way, watches as the statue shudders to a stop and steam billows from 100 other grates.

O'CONNELL

Evy, how did you turn off the arms
and turn on the steam bath?

EVELYN

I'm not sure, but I found the Eye.

Spangles of light ripple across Evy as she hinges open the skull and stares at THE EYE. It's an egg-sized diamond with a large, pupil-shaped emerald embedded within it.

EVELYN

It was inside Ganesh's belly.
Which makes perfect sense; you see,
in Indian culture, the third eye is
about looking inward.

A BULLET zips past Rick. It's Okumura.

O'CONNELL

Fill me in later.

Okumura pops off TWO MORE SHOTS, Rick races away, dives for cover among the sleeping crocodiles. As he peers through the steam, he sees the eyes of a croc pop open. Then another and another. They're all waking up! He slowly turns his head until he's staring into the open eyes of the croc directly in front of him. It's got a shit-eating grin on its snout. Just as the ferocious reptile lurches towards him with its jaws snapping, Rick shoulder-rolls to his feet and takes off.

O'CONNELL

Evy, I figured out what the steam
does!

Evy slides down Ganesh's right leg, clutching the skull box, turns to find the cavern is shrouded in a carpet of steam.

EVELYN

Rick, where are you?

She jumps down, unaware of the threat. Suddenly, a shape emerges through the curtain of steam behind her. It's Sikh #2! He's holding a sword and creeping up on her.

He's about to slice her in half when a GIANT CROCODILE leaps out of the mist, vices the guy in his jaws, and drops out of frame with lightning speed. Evy hears the man's MUFFLED CRY, spins, but sees nothing. When she turns back, she is startled to find Rick right next to her. She swats him.

EVELYN

Don't do that!

O'CONNELL

We need to go. Now!

However, as they turn, Okumura steps out of the steam with his gun aimed at Rick.

OKUMURA

Give me the Eye.

O'CONNELL

Don't do it, Evy.

Suddenly, an ENORMOUS RUMBLE BOOMS from inside the statue and the whole place shakes, throwing them off their feet and sending the skull box flying. Okumura scrambles after it, Rick right on his tail. Evy follows, avoiding the jaws of a dozen starving crocs.

OKUMURA -- sees the silver skull, is reaching for it when Rick dive-tackles him. The two men exchange blows. As Rick falls back, Okumura clambers for the skull. He's just grasped it in his hand when A MASSIVE CROCODILE leaps up and bites his arm off at the elbow. Okumura drops to his knees and SCREAMS in agony. Rick scrambles right past him and after the croc as another RUMBLE echoes from Ganesh.

O'CONNELL

Come here, boy.

As the crocodile opens its mouth to SNARL, Rick sees the skull box is still clutched in the palm of Okumura's severed arm which is lying on the croc's tongue.

O'CONNELL

Good croc.

Rick gets an idea, pulls the marble tusk from his jacket. As the croc moves in, Rick thrusts the tusk into its mouth, wedging it open. He reaches in and grabs the skull box a second before the reptile's jaws snap shut, OBLITERATING the marble tusk like a toothpick.

Rick runs back to Evy, who's trying to fend off a trio of crocs. They hear GUNFIRE and turn to see Okumura SHOOTING his way out. They're completely surrounded by HISSING crocs.

O'CONNELL

I thought Ganesh was the god of good luck.

EVELYN

Actually, he's the god of wealth, intelligence...

Suddenly, there's A DEAFENING GROAN and the statue topples off its base. As it CRASHES, its sword-wielding arms impale the crocs that are about to devour Rick and Evy.

EVELYN

... and remover of obstacles.

The duo clammers up onto the statue, which forms a bridge over the crocodile pit.

INT. TAJ MAHAL - DAY

Rick and Evy look like they've been dragged to hell and back. Rick holds his shoulder as they cross to the shoe Attendant.

EVELYN

I should report to the Home Office and you should see a doctor.

Rick hands the Attendant his ticket. The man stares in shock. Rick's shirt is ripped and his face is streaked with dirt and blood.

O'CONNELL

The other guy lost an arm.

As Rick starts pulling on his boots, he surreptitiously takes the Eye out of its skull box and slips it into a compartment in the heel of his boot. As he ties his laces:

O'CONNELL

Now let's get this vacation started.

Evy, meanwhile, notices the "Times of India" sitting on the Attendant's chair. She picks it up and stares at the photo on the front page in disbelief.

EVELYN

Rick, did you know someone found the First Emperor of China?

O'CONNELL

You're kidding? Who did that son-of-a-bitch Willoughby finally get to do the job?

EVELYN

Our son.

She angrily spins and thrusts the newspaper into his chest.

EVELYN

Vacation's over.

As she storms away, Rick peers at the front page. It features a photo of Alex under the headline, "O'CONNELL DISCOVERS FIRST EMPEROR OF CHINA!" OFF this image...

SMASH CUT TO:

AERIAL VIEW of a twinkling metropolis. CAMERA SURFS PAST magnificent hotels, SWOOPS over market-choked streets and alleys zigzagged with lanterns and washing lines.

TITLE SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN: SHANGHAI, CHINA.

It doesn't stop until it FINDS a bubble-gum-pink neon sign. It's flashing above a glitzy nightclub "IMHOTEP'S -- COCKTAILS AND DANCING. OPEN 10 'TIL LATE!" CAMERA PUSHES RIGHT THROUGH the "O" of Imhotep and INTO the window of...

INT. "IMHOTEP'S" - NIGHT

It's decorated like an Egyptian fantasy. The GORGEOUS ASIAN BARMAIDS are body-painted like Anck-su-namun. JONATHAN holds court at the bar. He's wearing a white dinner jacket and has a BEAUTIFUL SOCIALITE on each arm.

JONATHAN

... so the entire oasis sank into the desert. I said that's it, I'm done with Egypt. It's off to the Orient to follow my true dream. And when that didn't work out, I opened this nightclub.

He raises his champagne flute in a toast.

JONATHAN

To Imhotep!
(under his breath)
May the bastard actually stay dead.

They're about to clink when the whole place goes SILENT. Jonathan turns and sees a TRIO OF JAPANESE OFFICERS, lead by MAJOR SUKI, striding towards a table of INTENSE CHINESE MEN. The Major stares at the leader of the group, CHANG.

CHANG

You're in the wrong bar, they don't serve sake here.

MAJOR SUKI

Show me your papers.

CHANG

I don't take orders from Japanese.

Suki's hand edges for his weapon when Jonathan intervenes.

JONATHAN

Gentlemen, this club has a strict no-senseless-violence policy.

MAJOR SUKI

These men are suspected Chinese insurgents. How can you serve their kind?

JONATHAN

I serve all kinds, including Japanese officers with no jurisdiction.

He SNAPS his fingers, THREE GORGEOUS BARMAIDS step over.

JONATHAN

Now please enjoy my hospitality.

As they lead the Japanese away, Jonathan addresses Chang.

JONATHAN

I think it's time you found somewhere else for your little get-togethers, Chang. I'm a lover, not a fighter.

As he turns back to the bar, Jonathan is slapped across the face. He stares in surprise at Evy.

EVELYN

How long has Alex been in China?

JONATHAN

Alex is in China?

She slaps him again.

O'CONNELL

You may want to rethink your answer.

EVELYN

My son makes the biggest discovery of the century and I have to read about it in a newspaper.

JONATHAN

I tried reaching you in India. But I guess you were out gallivanting on elephants or whatever you do on a second honeymoon. How was it?

O'CONNELL

Crocodiles, slugs, secret temples, you know, the usual.

JONATHAN

Maybe you two should go on a package tour next time.

EVELYN

Jonathan!

JONATHAN

(finally caving)

Alex sent me a telegram six months ago. He told me he needed extra money for books and would I be a good uncle and wire it to him. The next thing I know he's on my doorstep, said he had an opportunity of a lifetime.

O'CONNELL

Which part of "world war" made you think that was a good idea?

EVELYN

We sent Alex to America so he wouldn't be in harm's way.

JONATHAN

Don't blame me, he's your son, it's not like you two have been role models for playing it safe.

O'CONNELL

Where is he?

As Jonathan points upstairs and they head away, CAMERA FINDS Major Suki observing from a booth. OFF his face...

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

There's a KNOCK at the door. Alex swings it open, revealing Lily. She steps in and is surprised to see a candlelit table for two and a bottle of champagne in a bucket.

LILY

Do you always study with
candlelight and champagne?

Alex feigns nonchalance.

ALEX

Oh that. It was a gift from the
British Consulate, apparently my
discovery has been a big morale
boost to everybody back home.

(picking up bottle)

Come on, one drink between friends
before we hit the books.

Lily smiles her agreement. With macho confidence, Alex tries to open the bottle, but struggles with the cork, finally he puts the bottle between his knees.

LILY

Need a hand?

ALEX

I've done this a thousand times.
It's all in the wrist.

At that moment, the cork POPS and a geyser of champagne sprays over him, drenching his shirt. As he turns away, we see that Lily is clearly charmed by his awkwardness.

ALEX

Give me a minute.

Alex steps behind a screen, takes off his shirt and looks for a replacement. Lily sneaks a peep at his reflection in a mirror and clearly likes what she sees. There's a LOUD KNOCK at the door. Alex calls out...

ALEX

I'm busy, slip the telegrams under
the door.

Another LOUDER KNOCK.

LILY

You want me to get it?

Alex pops his head around the side of the screen, holding a lamp under his chin which casts spooky shadows.

ALEX

It's probably just a mummy.

LILY

Alex, that's not funny.

ALEX

(scary voice)

... a mummy! Mummy!

Suddenly, the door bursts open and Evy stands on the threshold. He looks at her in wide-eyed shock.

ALEX

Mummy!

Alex puts down the lamp as Rick joins her. Evy stares in horror while Rick smiles, amused by the situation.

O'CONNELL

Hey, kiddo, get lost on your way to Yale?

Alex looks at Evy, who is seething.

ALEX

Mum, you look upset.

EVELYN

I passed upset two time zones ago.

ALEX

I can explain.

EVELYN

You're half naked, consorting with a bar-girl. It's pretty self-explanatory.

ALEX

Lily's not a bar-girl.

LILY

We're colleagues.

ALEX

We were about to exchange valuable research.

O'CONNELL

I bet you were.

EVELYN

And that required candles, champagne and taking off your clothes?

Flustered, Alex pulls on a shirt.

LILY

Alex, I'm going. You obviously have some catching up to do. Good night, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connell.

ALEX

Lily, wait.

As she heads out, Alex turns to his parents, exasperated.

ALEX

Way to go guys, thanks.

O'CONNELL

Let me get this straight. You lie to us and we're supposed to feel bad about ruining your date?

ALEX

It wasn't a --

(catches himself)

I didn't tell you about the dig because I knew what you'd say. That you don't want me running around a country on the brink of war.

O'CONNELL

Yeah, we're terrible parents holding you back like that.

ALEX

You parked me at Yale because you still think I'm a child.

O'CONNELL

We parked you at Yale so you'd live to see your next birthday.

ALEX

For your information I tried to enlist.

(off their shock)

But they wouldn't take me. Said I was 4F. Bad eyes. Flat feet.

EVELYN

I'm afraid you inherited my family's genes. The Carnahans aren't known for producing football stars. Just look at your Uncle Jon.

ALEX

When Sir Willoughby called and said I could be of service to my country, I jumped.

(to Evy, excited)

Mum, he's going to make me a full Bembridge Scholar.

O'CONNELL

That doesn't matter.

But Evy's face suddenly glows with pride.

EVELYN

Full scholar? Alex, that's fantastic. Just what we've always dreamed about.

ALEX

Sir Willoughby is throwing me a party at the British Consulate tomorrow night.

O'CONNELL

Evy, we're supposed to be mad. United front, remember?

EVELYN

Alex, it's terrible you lied...
(can't contain herself)
... but congratulations! Give me a hug.

As they hug, Rick rolls his eyes. Evy finally breaks off.

EVELYN

Now, tell me more about this Lily.

OFF Alex's embarrassment...

EXT. SHANGHAI - DAWN

The modern city of Art Deco skyscrapers sits on the banks of the Huangpu River which is home to a floating city of boats and sampans. CAMERA ZEROES IN ON a TATTERED THREE-MAST JUNK sitting in the middle of the flotilla of vessels.

INT. JUNK - DAWN

TIGHT ON OKUMURA as the HIDEOUS WHINE of a drill cuts the air. He twists a pair of meditation balls in the palm of his good hand. PAN DOWN FROM THE SHOULDER of his other arm TO REVEAL the lost appendage has been replaced by

A MECHANICAL ARM

A CHINESE ENGINEER, wearing thick magnifying glasses, is fine-tuning the arm's intricately constructed inner workings with a drill. The man takes his foot off the pedal.

CHINESE ENGINEER

Try again.

Okumura takes the meditation balls in his metallic hand. As his fingers close around them, the balls SHATTER in his grip.

CHINESE ENGINEER

Too strong. I need to adjust the tension.

As he's about to WHIR the drill back to life, Okumura reaches over and violently crushes the tool.

OKUMURA

Leave it. It's perfect.

(beat)

You have done a great service for Japan. When the storm comes, you will be protected.

He extends his mechanical hand. The Engineer peers at it, finally reaches out. He braces for a bone-crushing, but is surprised when Okumura gently clenches his hand. As the man hastily exits, he passes Major Suki from "Imhotep's".

MAJOR SUKI

The O'Connells are in Shanghai.

OKUMURA

Right on time.

OFF Okumura's look of satisfaction...

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

Jonathan's custom-white, CHAUFFEUR-driven Bentley crawls through the colorful sea of market stalls and rickshaws.

INT. BENTLEY - NIGHT

Jonathan is in front while Alex is squeezed between Rick and Evy in the back. They're dressed up for the big party. Rick rolls his eyes as an ELDERLY BICYCLIST passes them.

O'CONNELL

It would have been faster going by rickshaw.

Evy shoots him a look.

EVELYN

Rick, this might be a good time to give Alex his present.

Alex regards his dad with surprise.

ALEX

You got me a gift?

Rick sheepishly nods, hands Alex a box.

O'CONNELL

You know, in honor of your big discovery.

Alex RATTLES it gleefully, looks at Evy.

ALEX

I bet it's that new set of archaeological trowels I've had my eye on.

EVELYN

Don't look at me, your father insisted on picking it out himself.

Alex RIPS open the lid and stares in disappointment.

ALEX

Wow. A slingshot.

O'CONNELL

It's the super-deluxe model. It'll knock the head off a pigeon at 100 feet.

Alex tries to let Rick down gently.

ALEX

Thanks, Dad, but I kind of hung up
my slingshot when I was twelve.

A MAN suddenly dashes in front of the Bentley. The Chauffeur slams on the brakes and jerks the car to a stop. Alex slips the slingshot into his pocket as TWO JAPANESE SOLDIERS tackle the Man and drag him back to a LINE OF PEOPLE who have their arms up against a wall and are being held at gunpoint.

JONATHAN

The Japanese have been cracking
down on the Chinese resistance.

O'CONNELL

What will happen to them?

JONATHAN

Nobody knows, they just disappear.

ALEX

Lily said they get packed into
trains and sent off to work camps.
A couple of her friends got picked
up last week.

EVELYN

Please tell me you're not dating a
revolutionary.

ALEX

Lily's a student and, for the
hundredth time, we're not dating.

They see a JAPANESE SOLDIER club one of the resistance
fighters and start beating him with a baton.

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

As the Soldier swings back his arm again, his baton is
whipped out of his hand. The Soldier spins and finds Rick.

O'CONNELL

You want a fair fight, how about
taking a swing at me?

The Soldier levels his gun and starts YELLING at Rick. Alex
races over, tries to calm the situation as other Japanese
Soldiers circle.

ALEX

Dad, get back in the car.

Rick holds his ground until the beaten man looks at him. It's Chang, the resistance fighter, from "Imhotep's".

CHANG

Thank you, friend, but this isn't your fight.

Rick reluctantly steps back and watches as the resistance fighters are loaded into the back of a truck.

EXT. BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

The landscaped compound sits behind 20-foot stone walls. Jonathan's Bentley CRUNCHES to a stop in front of the Palladium-style Consulate. Rick, Evy, Alex and Jonathan step out. Rick is still rattled from the incident.

O'CONNELL

I still can't believe we stood there and did nothing.

ALEX

Dad, if you'd done anything more, the Japanese would have us killed. They practically run Shanghai.

O'CONNELL

What about the British? Do they just throw fancy parties and pretend nothing's happening?

JONATHAN

They've got their hands full with the Nazis.

O'CONNELL

It's wrong.

EVELYN

War always is.

(beat)

Now cheer up, for Alex's sake.

As they head inside, Jonathan hands the VALET the keys.

JONATHAN

I've memorized every inch of this beauty. One scratch and we're going to have an international incident.

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

The Emperor's sarcophagus lies on the back of the horse-drawn chariot Alex discovered in the crypt. It's being guarded by THREE BRITISH SOLDIERS and sits under the room's glass dome. A MILITARY BAND plays and the EXPAT CROWD is served by ELEGANT CHINESE HOSTESSES. As Rick, Evy and Alex make their way through, Alex sees Jonathan ducking away.

ALEX

Uncle Jon, where are you going?
The mummy's this way.

JONATHAN

I've seen enough mummies to last a lifetime, but I never tire of a well-stocked bar.

They step to the sarcophagus. Evy is captivated.

EVELYN

Fascinating.

ALEX

Get a good look. They're shipping it off to England tomorrow.

EVELYN

Tomorrow? But you haven't even opened it yet.

O'CONNELL

Does the phrase "rest in peace" mean anything to you two?

Evy runs her hand over the sarcophagus, stops when she comes across five Chinese characters.

EVELYN

I don't recognize the characters in this cartouche.

ALEX

They represent the five Chinese elements.

EVELYN

Of course; earth, fire, water, stone, metal.

ALEX

If you believe the legend, the Emperor could control them.

EVELYN

Better hope he doesn't rise again.

O'CONNELL

Wait. Nobody's rising again.
We've been there, done that. Evy,
step away from the mummy.

Rick and Evy notice Alex is staring at something, they follow his gaze and see Lily. She looks radiant in a mandarin-collared silk dress, and an unusual flame-shaped silver pendant graces her neck. She crosses to Alex.

LILY

What do you think?

ALEX

The operative word is "gulp."

Evy steps forward.

EVELYN

Lily, we wanted to apologize for last night. Alex caught us a little off-guard.

LILY

If it makes you feel any better, you're all he ever talks about, Mrs. O'Connell.

Evy smiles while Rick rolls his eyes.

LILY

If I could borrow Alex for a moment, the Dean of the University would like to meet him.

As Alex heads away with Lily.

EVELYN

I don't know, there's something about her that bothers me.

O'CONNELL

Maybe it's the fact that your son is clearly in love with her.

EVELYN

He said they're just colleagues.

O'CONNELL
Yeah, on a dig, all alone in the
desert. Sound familiar?

EVELYN
We couldn't stand each other.

O'CONNELL
That's because you were impossible.

EVELYN
And you were incorrigible.

Rick smiles.

O'CONNELL
I say we step outside and settle
this.

She flashes a sexy smile as Rick pulls her out onto...

EXT. PATIO - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

... he takes her in his arms and they passionately kiss.
When they finally break off, she looks into his eyes.

EVELYN
Still incorrigible.

WILLOUGHBY (O.S.)
Hello, Evelyn.

Flustered, they turn and find Sir Colin Willoughby.

WILLOUGHBY
Rick.

O'CONNELL
Colin.

WILLOUGHBY
Sir Colin now.

O'CONNELL
That's the beauty of being American
-- I don't have to call you by
those silly titles.

There's clearly no love lost between these two. Evy
attempts to make peace.

EVELYN

I'm grateful you've taken Alex under your wing. I know your mentorship has been invaluable.

O'CONNELL

Yeah, pulling him out of college behind our backs, putting him in danger. You're a real stand up, Colin.

WILLOUGHBY

I suggest you teach your husband some manners. Good night, Evelyn.

Evy waits while Willoughby exits, then turns to Rick.

EVELYN

You promised to behave!

O'CONNELL

That idiot's the reason you're not a Bembridge Scholar. You're lucky I didn't deck him.

A CHINESE HOSTESS, wearing a red-and-black uniform, steps out holding a silver tray with a note. She bows to Evy, who takes the note and reads it. She looks at Rick.

EVELYN

The Ambassador wants to see us.

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

Rick and Evy follow the Hostess through the crowd. She leads them into a hall just as the BRITISH CONSUL hushes the crowd.

BRITISH CONSUL

Ladies and gentlemen, if you will please proceed to the garden, the fireworks are about to begin.

INT. AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

AMBASSADOR FENWICK, a no-nonsense Brit in his 50s, drops ice into a glass while Rick and Evy look on.

AMBASSADOR FENWICK

What the devil happened at the Taj Mahal? You had specific instructions not to engage Okumura.

EVELYN

I know that, Sir, but I assure you that what we discovered will be of vital interest to the Home Office.

As the Ambassador takes a sip of scotch, his face stiffens.

EVELYN

Sir, if I may say, you're looking a little peaky.

A beat later, the Ambassador keels over, revealing a Chinese THROWING STAR imbedded in his back.

O'CONNELL

This meeting's definitely over!

When they spin, they come face to face with Okumura. He's flanked by TWO HOSTESSES who have throwing stars poised in their hands. As Rick reaches for his gun, Okumura's metallic hand flies up and vice-grips his throat.

OKUMURA

Where is the Eye?

O'CONNELL

I think you have me confused with a twenty-foot croc with a serious case of indigestion.

Okumura forces Rick to his knees.

WILLOUGHBY (O.S.)

I suggest you give the man what he wants.

Evy turns and finds Willoughby at the doorway holding a gun on her. Rick removes the Eye from the heel of his boot and tosses it into Okumura's waiting hands...

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

As the last guest heads outside, THREE HOSTESSES lock the doors. They smile flirtatiously at the three Soldiers guarding the chariot, then in a blur of hands expertly hurl throwing stars at them. The Soldiers drop to the marble, dead, just as Okumura and Willoughby lead Rick and Evy in.

EVELYN

(to Willoughby)

How could you do this? You're a knight of the crown.

WILLOUGHBY

Empires come and go, Evelyn, you should know that better than anybody. Britain is the past, Japan's the future.

O'CONNELL

Stupid son of a bitch. How much yen did Okumura pay you?

WILLOUGHBY

Enough for me to suggest to the Home Office that you two should follow him to India.

O'CONNELL

You set us up.

WILLOUGHBY

Those silly titles come in handy sometimes.

Suddenly, the chandelier goes out. Willoughby grins.

WILLOUGHBY

It's show time.

EXT. GARDENS - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

BOOOOOOM! A cascade of fireworks EXPLODES overhead. Alex heads through the crowd, spots Jonathan.

ALEX

Any sign of Mum and Dad?

JONATHAN

You know them, they're probably in some quiet corner snogging.

Alex smiles, then sees Lily heading for the Rotunda. As he follows after her...

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

Evy stares at Willoughby in contempt.

O'CONNELL

There's a special place in hell for people who sell out their country.

WILLOUGHBY

I didn't sell out, General Okumura financed Alex's dig.

(MORE)

WILLOUGHBY (CONT'D)

Who better to find a mummy than an
O'Connell...

(turning to Evy)

... and who better to raise one
than you, Evelyn.

Another firework blossoms. Rick and Evy stare in shock as
Okumura holds up Zohora's TERRA COTTA BOOK OF THE DEAD.

EVELYN

Impossible! There's only one Book
of the Dead.

WILLOUGHBY

Emperor Qin Shihuang had a terra
cotta copy. I've been searching
for it for years. Finally tracked
it to a fishing village in Nepal.

EVELYN

I implore you if the Emperor rises,
he'll...

OKUMURA

... bring about death and
destruction. That's the point.

Rick understands.

O'CONNELL

He's your doomsday weapon.

OKUMURA

Japan will win the war without a
single casualty.

O'CONNELL

It's a mummy, not a genie. Trust
me, these guys only work for
themselves.

Okumura SLAMS Rick in the face. Willoughby steps to Evy with
the Book of the Dead.

EVELYN

I'll never read it.

Okumura shoves his gun against Rick's head.

OKUMURA

If you don't, your husband dies,
then I kill your son.

O'CONNELL
 You touch Alex and I swear to
 God...

Okumura COCKS the gun. Evy and Rick exchange anguished glances. Finally, she succumbs.

EVELYN
 Give me the Book.

WILLOUGHBY
 You always were the sensible one,
 Evelyn.

As Willoughby hands her the Book, Okumura steps to the sarcophagus. He taps the symbols in the cartouche like an ancient combination lock. The lid splits open with a DEAFENING CRACK. Evy and Rick watch in horror as the lid slowly slides away and Emperor Qin Shihuang's terra cotta mummy rises in the purple glow of another firework. Evy cautiously opens the book.

O'CONNELL
 Evy, don't do it!

Evy ignores his plea.

EVELYN
 God forgive me.

EXT. BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

Alex steps around the side of the building, but there's no sign of Lily. Some petals drop in front of him, he looks up and sees Lily climbing off a wisteria lattice and onto...

EXT. ROOF - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

Alex climbs up, doesn't see anyone. He steps across the gravel to the glass dome, stares down, and is shocked to see Evy reading from the Book of the Dead. He shakes his head.

ALEX
 I can't take them anywhere.

As another firework mushrooms, he sees Lily shimmying down a chain and stepping onto the enormous crystal chandelier that dangles directly over the Emperor Mummy's sarcophagus.

ALEX
 Lily?

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

PUSH IN ON EVY as she reads from the terra cotta Book of the Dead. The ancient Egyptian incantation echoes and fireworks wash everything in eerie Technicolor.

PUSH IN ON RICK as a fierce wind whips and the Emperor Mummy is cocooned in CRACKLING tongues of white hot energy.

PUSH IN ON OKUMURA AND WILLOUGHBY watching in awe as the spectacle reaches a crescendo, then subsides. Okumura and Willoughby step forward expectantly, but the Emperor does not move. He looks glossy and wet like a newly molded statue.

OKUMURA

Why hasn't the Emperor risen?

WILLOUGHBY

She must have misread the book!

EVELYN

(indignant)

I most certainly did not!

Willoughby jabs the wet clay with one of his fat fingers and shakes his head in contempt.

WILLOUGHBY

There's a reason I never let this woman into the Bembri--

With shocking suddenness, the Emperor's arm reaches up and grabs Willoughby's face. Willoughby ROARS in agony as the Emperor Mummy sucks his life force. As the Emperor Mummy's skin hardens, Willoughby turns to terra cotta. Finally, the Emperor Mummy releases his grip. Willoughby falls back and SHATTERS on the floor like a porcelain doll.

Rick and Evy watch in horror as the Emperor Mummy lurches up and gulps his first breath of air in 2,200 years. His hardened lids pop open and he stares at them with Willoughby's watery blue eyes. Okumura turns to them.

OKUMURA

At least you can die knowing you've aided a great cause.

As he raises his gun...

EXT. ROOF - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

Alex watches alarmed. He gets an idea, whips out the slingshot and scoops up a stone. He carefully steps onto the glass rotunda and takes aim at Okumura.

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

Lily is crouched on the chandelier. She pulls out a dragon-hilted dagger. It looks exactly like the one the Emperor used to stab Zohora. She's about to leap down when...

EXT. ROOF - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

... Alex fires. The stone BULLETS through the glass...

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

... misses Okumura by a mile, ricochets off the bronze chariot, PINGS against the chandelier, before SHATTERING the nose of the Emperor Mummy clean off. As maggots writhe out through the stub, Evy turns to Rick.

EVELYN

He's still breakable.

But Rick is following Okumura's gaze up to...

O'CONNELL

Alex.

EXT. ROOF - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

ALEX

(shaking head)

I'm beyond rusty.

Bullets BLAST up through the dome. He looks down to see Okumura FIRING at him. Before he has time to run, the glass rotunda spiderwebs and Alex is sent tumbling.

INT. ROTUNDA - BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

As Alex plummets in a shower of glass,

ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!

Lily reaches out, catches his arm and swings him onto the chandelier. Hostess #3 whips a throwing star up at Alex. It misses him by a whisker but nicks the chain holding the chandelier. Before Hostess #3 can get off another star, Evy smashes the Book of the Dead over her head, obliterating it.

EVELYN

Stay away from my son!

Rick slides across the floor, snaps Willoughby's gun out of his terra cotta fingers, and starts FIRING at the Emperor Mummy. The bullets drill right through his hard shell in a spray of desiccated bone and maggots. As Rick's gun CLICKS empty, Okumura steps to the Emperor Mummy's side.

OKUMURA

(in ancient Chinese)

*You must come with me. Everything
will be explained.*

Lily sees Hostesses #4 and #5 stalking Evy. As they launch their throwing stars, Lily somersaults off the chandelier and dive-tackles Evy out of the way. The Hostesses stare in horror as they are impaled by each other's stars.

As the Emperor Mummy sees Lily, his eyes flash with strange recognition. Then he presses his palm against one of the bronze horses, causing bolts of energy to cloak the statues. Rick watches amazed as

THE STATUES ANGRILY COME TO LIFE!

They stomp their hooves and whip their metallic heads. When the light show subsides, the Emperor Mummy and Okumura climb onto the chariot. Rick is about to give chase when he hears a SNAP! He sees the chandelier has broken free with Alex still clinging to it. Rick rolls out of the way as it SMASHES down while Alex falls into the sarcophagus, knocking himself out. Rick shakes his head.

O'CONNELL

That's my boy.

Lily dashes forward, rolls under the chariot and clutches the undercarriage as it speeds towards the French doors.

EXT. BRITISH CONSULATE - NIGHT

Jonathan looks around, irritated.

JONATHAN

Where the hell is everybody?

He's crossing back to the house when the chariot powers through the French doors in an EXPLOSION of wood and glass. Jonathan dives free and stares at the Emperor Mummy, who's holding the reins, as the chariot barrels past.

JONATHAN

Oh no. Not again.

Terrified GUESTS scatter as the four bronze horses stampede across the perfectly manicured lawn. The chariot's two-foot wheel spikes amputate the legs off a row of statues. Then Jonathan sees the chariot is headed for a row of parked cars. His Bentley is smack in the middle!

JONATHAN

Watch out for....

He winces as the horses SMASH right over it, their metallic hooves trampling it to the ground.

JONATHAN

... my beautiful, brand-new Bentley.

A canvas-roof truck SKIDS to a stop next to him. Evy is behind the wheel. Rick leans out of the back.

O'CONNELL

Get in! We have to save Alex.

Before he can protest, Rick yanks him into the truck. As it takes off in pursuit, we see the words "DRAGON FIREWORKS CO., SHANGHAI" painted on the truck's back-flap.

THE CHARIOT

speeds down the drive. TWO GUARDS OPEN FIRE, then scramble out of the way. The horses blast through the massive gates like an ancient battering ram. Lily desperately clings to the undercarriage as the gates SLAM to the ground in a shower of sparks and the chariot bursts out into...

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

It's like a demolition derby. The chariot destroys everything in its path. Rickshaws, bicycles and market stalls are SMASHED to smithereens. It plows through an open-air restaurant, sending CUSTOMERS scrambling.

EVY -- turns on her wipers as a deluge of chop suey and dumplings splatters across the windshield.

RICK AND JONATHAN -- are jackhammered around in the back. Jonathan RANTS as Rick searches crates of fireworks.

JONATHAN

God! You two are like mummy magnets.

Rick hands him a fat-ass rocket.

O'CONNELL

Aim for the Emperor. We can still shatter him.

Rick RIPS a section of the canvas away, giving him a view over the cab. He ignites the end of a firework and aims it at the chariot like a shoulder-held rocket launcher.

EXT. CHARIOT - NIGHT

Alex is coming around. He pokes his head out of the sarcophagus and sees a firework streaking towards him! He ducks back down as the projectile HISSES over him and snakes past the Emperor Mummy and Okumura. The Emperor Mummy whips the horses to go faster as TWO MORE rockets follow.

INT. FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Jonathan grabs the biggest firework. It's a four-foot monster. He lights the fuse and heaves it onto his shoulder.

JONATHAN

Let slip the dogs of war!

KABOOOOOOOOM! The concussive force sends Jonathan flying back. The rocket SCREAMS down the street, misses the chariot, and impacts with a parked car, causing it to EXPLODE. The flaming vehicle is launched 10 feet into the air and flips as it crashes into the road right in front of

THE FIREWORKS TRUCK!

Evy frantically jerks the wheel and violently lurches the truck up a sloping side street.

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

Alex peeps up over the lid, sees the Emperor Mummy and Okumura. He's about to make a move when he's tackled back into the sarcophagus by Lily. Alex stares at her in shock.

ALEX

What are you doing? First you're climbing down chandeliers, now you're jumping onto chariots. Are you trying to get yourself killed?

LILY

I was trying to rescue you.

ALEX
 (flattered surprise)
 Really?

As the chariot speeds over a pothole, they are thrown into each other's arms.

INT. FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Rick pops his head out and stares down over the rooftops and is surprised to see they've pulled ahead of the chariot that's charging down the street below. As the truck sweeps past a house that's under construction, Rick gets an idea.

O'CONNELL
 Stop the truck!

Evy hits the brakes, sending Jonathan flying onto his ass again. Rick dives off and grabs a bicycle that's leaning against a wall. He shouts back to Evy.

O'CONNELL
 Keep going!

Jonathan climbs into the front as she takes off.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Rick leaps onto the bike, pedals furiously towards the construction site, rides up a wooden plank and onto the roof! Now, he careens down the tiled rooftops, flies right over an alley, traverses a courtyard. Finally, he powers down a long, sloping roof. He uses it like a half-pipe, launches himself up over the street just as

THE CHARIOT

passes. Alex and Lily disentangle themselves, stare up from the sarcophagus as Rick sails through the air.

LILY
 Was that your dad?

ALEX
 Yeah, he's got a hero complex.
 It's kind of embarrassing.

Rick SMASH-LANDS onto one of the front horses, lets go of the bike, which is MANGLED under the CLATTERING hooves. He pulls his gun as he swings up onto the beast's back and FIRES at the Emperor Mummy, BLASTING off one of his ears.

OKUMURA OPENS FIRE. Rick ducks as BULLETS ricochet off the metal steeds. But then one hits the harness strap and severs it in two! No longer constrained, the horse gallops free. Rick bounces, in nut-numbing agony, as the horse heads for an ornamental moon door that's way too small!

O'CONNELL

Whoa!

Rick ducks as the horse SMASH-DRIVES through and out into...

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

A parade is in full swing. A 60-MAN ceremonial dragon is weaving its way down the packed street. DRUMMERS pound and strings of red firecrackers BANG! Rick's horse "dissects" the dragon in three, plows through the drummers, then leaps over the heads of the COWERING CROWD and into an alley.

EXT. ANOTHER SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

The chariot is hurtling when the fireworks truck SKID-TURNS around a corner. Jonathan leans out, gun BLAZING. Okumura RETURNS FIRE. One of his rounds SHATTERS the truck's windshield and RIPS through the partition and into...

INT. BACK - FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

The bullet ignites a CRATE OF FIRECRACKERS, setting off a chain reaction.

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

Lily peeks out, then looks back at Alex as she climbs out.

LILY

Stay down.

ALEX

Lily, I have a lot more experience
with mumm--

She cuts him off with a kiss. He looks at her in shock.

LILY

Just wait here, okay?

As he tries to follow, his elbow inadvertently hits a button, which causes the lid of the sarcophagus to start to close. Alex reaches up and wrestles with the jade slab.

EXT. CHARIOT - NIGHT

Unaware of Alex's trouble, Lily stalks up to the front of the chariot. She pulls out her dragon dagger, but light glints off its blade, alerting Okumura. As he spins to face her...

INT. CAB - FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

... a roman candle side-winds into the window. As Jonathan tries to snuff it out, Evy watches through the smoke as Okumura SHOOTS Lily point blank.

EVELYN

Oh my God!

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

Alex has just about pried the lid open when Lily tumbles on top of him and the lid SLAMS shut with awful finality.

EXT. ALLEY - SHANGHAI - NIGHT

Lines of wet laundry whip Rick's face as the horse careens down the cobbles. He desperately pulls on the reins, trying to get it under control. He yanks a pair of bloomers off his face and sees he's headed straight for a -- DEAD END!

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET - NIGHT

FIZZING rockets are now bursting through the fireworks truck's canvas canopy as it speeds after the chariot. Suddenly, the wall in front of them EXPLODES OPEN and

RICK AND THE HORSE

burst into view. Rick looks back at Evy and Jonathan, can't believe he made it. They point, only when Rick swings back does he see that the horse's head has been ripped clean off! As more BULLETS fly, Rick grabs the reins. Without its head, it actually seems to respond.

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

Pitch black. Alex flicks on a lighter, revealing Lily. She's miraculously unharmed.

LILY

Any idea how to get out of here?

ALEX

These things usually don't have directions on the inside.

As the chariot makes a wild turn, Alex is knocked onto his side and his lighter illuminates a saucer-size gold disc inlaid into the lid of the sarcophagus. It's engraved with five suns and five moons and is ringed by an inscription.

ALEX

Maybe the lock's under here.

He attempts to pry the disc out with his fingers, but can't.

LILY

Try this.

Alex reacts as she hands him the dragon dagger.

ALEX

Cool knife.

As he levers the disc free...

EXT. WOODEN WHARF - NIGHT

It stretches out into the Huangpu River. The chariot churns across the planks and barrels straight off the end! As it arcs toward the water, the Emperor Mummy holds out his hand. Concentric circles of blue-white energy ripple out from his palm and form a 100-yard-wide frozen path.

INT. CAB - FIREWORKS TRUCK - NIGHT

Evy and Jonathan watch as the chariot SLAMS onto the ice.

JONATHAN

Bloody hell, how did he do that?

EVELYN

He can control the five elements.

As she spins the wheel and follows Rick onto...

EXT. WOODEN WHARF - NIGHT

Rick hugs the broken neck of his horse as it speeds after the chariot. He closes his eyes as the steed leaps off the wharf and flies towards the ice.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

The bronze horse SMACK-SLIDES down. It gallops after the chariot as the fireworks truck SCREECHES to a stop at the end of the wharf.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

The chariot speeds towards Okumura's junk, which is sitting in the middle of the frozen river. Rick has almost pulled alongside, he takes aim and BLASTS the bolt attaching the sarcophagus carriage to the chariot.

As the sarcophagus carriage spins across the ice, the Emperor Mummy swerves into Rick's path. The chariot's foot-long wheel-spikes SPARK-SLICE through the horse's metal legs. As the horse buckles over onto the ice and shatters apart, Rick is violently catapulted free.

The chariot pulls up next to the junk. Okumura climbs onboard followed by the Emperor Mummy, who waves his hand across the river, causing the ice to melt. As the ice melts from under it, the carriage plunges into...

EXT. UNDERWATER - NIGHT

The sarcophagus slides free of the carriage and nose-dives through the moonlit water.

INT. SARCOPHAGUS - NIGHT

Water shoots through the cracks. It's filling up fast. Alex looks into Lily's eyes, it's now or never.

ALEX

Lily, there's something I want to tell you before we die...

As the water overwhelms them, he manages to blurt out...

ALEX

... I'm in love with you.

Before she can respond, the space fills with water. Suddenly, the sound of HAMMERING echoes.

EXT. UNDERWATER - NIGHT

Rick is bashing the lid with a foot-long length of a broken bronze horse hoof. The lid finally cracks apart and he stares into Alex and Lily's grateful faces.

EXT. WHARF - NIGHT

The junk sails into the mist as Evy and Jonathan look out into the dark water, distraught.

EVELYN

Rick... Alex...

As if in answer, Rick, Alex and Lily break the surface and climb onto the dock. Evy races to Alex, fusses over him.

ALEX
Mum, I'm alright.

LILY
Thanks to Mr. O'Connell.

O'CONNELL
Years of practice pulling Alex's
fanny out of the fire.

Rick doesn't see, but we do, that Alex is stung by his quip. Meanwhile, Evy looks at Lily, unsure.

EVELYN
I'd say you can handle yourself,
too. Those were some impressive
moves back at the Consulate.

LILY
My mother taught me self-defense.

As Alex and Lily walk down the dock, Evy stares after them.

O'CONNELL
Evy, you've got that look, what's
wrong?

EVELYN
I could have sworn I saw Okumura
shoot Lily.

O'CONNELL
Must have missed.

They hear a WOLF-WHISTLE, turn and see Jonathan standing by the smoking fireworks truck.

JONATHAN
Come on, undead on the loose.
Chop. Chop.

As Rick and Evy climb in, Alex pulls Lily aside.

ALEX
Look, about what I said...

LILY
It's okay, Alex, you were staring
death in the face.

As she gets in, Alex shakes his head.

ALEX
Why couldn't I have just drowned?

As he climbs into a truck next to Lily...

EXT. JUNK - DAY

Its three triangular sails SNAP as the vessel silently sweeps past mist-draped mountains. Okumura stands at the bow, studying a map, while his CREW hustles around him.

INT. CABIN - JUNK - DAY

The Emperor Mummy studies his wounds in a mirror. Fat maggots feast on his fossilized guts which poke out of his bullet-riddled torso. There's A KNOCK. Without turning he looks up. Through the bullet hole under his left eye, a MAN can be seen at the door behind him holding a tray of food. As the Emperor spins to face him...

EXT. JUNK - DAY

A blood-curdling SCREAM rings out. The CREW of JAPANESE SAILORS instantly stops and fearfully looks at Okumura, who is studying a map with a TIBETAN MONK.

OKUMURA
Keep working!

INT. CABIN - JUNK - DAY

The Emperor Mummy holds the SCREAMING Man by the face. Daggers of light cut through the Man and heal the Emperor Mummy's wounds. As the Emperor Mummy drops the Man's corpse, which smashes onto the floor, Okumura is revealed.

EMPEROR MUMMY
*Why did you raise me from my
slumber? The curse still weighs
on me.*

OKUMURA
Your condition is temporary.

The Emperor Mummy looks at Okumura with piercing contempt. Without warning, the Emperor Mummy grabs Okumura's mechanical arm. As he thrusts it to Okumura's throat, the metal appendage morphs into a razor-sharp scimitar blade.

EMPEROR MUMMY

The last general I trusted betrayed me. How do I know you won't do the same?

The blade presses into Okumura's flesh.

OKUMURA

Because I have found the answer you spent a lifetime seeking -- the key to eternal life.

The Emperor Mummy lets Okumura go, taken by surprise. Okumura hands him the Eye. The Emperor Mummy gazes into the massive gemstone, awestruck.

OKUMURA

Once the curse has been lifted and you are immortal, there will be no battle you can't win, no country you can't conquer.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Conquest requires an army.

OKUMURA

Have no fear, your warriors will be ready.

EMPEROR MUMMY

What do you hope to gain?

Okumura steps to a large globe, spins it with his finger.

OKUMURA

To rule the world by your side.

The Emperor Mummy studies the globe, intrigued.

EMPEROR MUMMY

The world is round?

OKUMURA

Yes, and much bigger than the last time you conquered it.

The Emperor Mummy smiles malevolently.

EMPEROR MUMMY

When the dragon roars again, you shall receive your just reward.

INT. "IMHOTEP'S" - DAY

CLOSE ON: THE GOLD DISC. It's the one Alex pried off the sarcophagus. PULL BACK TO REVEAL the O'Connells, Alex Jonathan and Lily in a booth. It's after closing. Rick juggles the skull box while Alex and Lily examine the disc.

LILY

It's a Chinese talisman.

EVELYN

Can you translate it?

ALEX

It's a warning to the Emperor. Once awakened, he has five days to attain immortality or else he'll turn to dust.

O'CONNELL

So even though your mother read from the Book of the Dead, he's not immortal?

ALEX

Not yet. He's merely undead.

JONATHAN

Where exactly does one go to attain immortality?

Evvy puts the pieces together.

EVELYN

The Spring of Eternal Life. That's why Okumura needs the Eye of Pemako, to find Shangri-La.

JONATHAN

Is this Eye some sort of map?

EVELYN

More like a beacon. If the Eye is placed in the Temple of Whispering Skulls, it will point the way through the Valley of a Thousand Waterfalls. Behind one of them is Shangri-La.

LILY

But that's only a legend.

JONATHAN

This family's never met a legend
that wasn't true.

(beat)

Where exactly is this Temple?

ALEX

Hidden somewhere in the Himalayas.

Alex sees Rick playing with the skull box, gets an idea.

ALEX

Was the Eye in this?

O'CONNELL

Yeah, but I already checked it
over. Didn't find any map.

ALEX

In Tibetan tradition, skulls are
sacred keepsakes, they store
memories...

Alex grabs a votive candle from the table.

ALEX

... all we need to do is illuminate
them.

He flips open the skull's lid and places the candle inside.
Like an ancient jack-o'-lantern, the eyes project a crude map
onto the wall.

EVELYN

That's my boy!

She hugs him, but he pulls away, embarrassed by the display.

ALEX

Can you please not be that Mum
right now.

They cross to the map projection. It looks like a Chinese
silk painting and features a stylized impression of a vast
mountain range. The Temple of Whispering Skulls is in the
middle and overlooks a long, narrow valley of waterfalls.
Alex points to the river that snakes through mountains.

ALEX

Looks like the Tsangpo River. It
cuts right through the Himalayas
and leads straight to the Temple.

O'CONNELL
Explains why our friends were
travelling by junk.

Lily studies a block of text at the bottom of the map.

LILY
(translating)
"Climb the Ladder to Heaven or
cross the Devil's Gorge, either
path will lead to enlightenment."

Evy points to a staircase.

EVELYN
The Ladder must be these stairs in
the cliff face.

Rick's finger charts the tortuous overland route.

O'CONNELL
If we can cross the Gorge, we could
still beat them to the Temple.

JONATHAN
Or we could all die a horrible
frozen death.

ALEX
Way to stay positive, Uncle Jon.

LILY
Not to join the chorus, but that
region is completely inaccessible.

O'CONNELL
Who built the temple?

ALEX
Tibetan monks.

Rick grins, a plan clearly forming in his head.

O'CONNELL
Maybe it's time we found religion.

SMASH CUT TO:

The HIMALAYAS. The pristine peaks pierce the indigo sky like
shark's teeth. PAN ACROSS lines of whipping Tibetan Prayer
flags TO REVEAL the burned-out shell of a monastery.

EXT. TIBETAN MONASTARY - DAY

Rick, Evy, Jonathan and Alex inspect the devastated interior.

O'CONNELL

Who the hell would burn down a
monastery?

Lily approaches.

LILY

The villagers say it was ransacked
by Japanese soldiers two weeks ago.
All the monks were rounded up and
put on a train.

As they absorb this, Alex sniffs the air.

ALEX

What's the stench?

O'CONNELL

Smells like tequila.

LILY

More like yak wine.

JONATHAN

Yak wine? That's wrong in so many
ways.

Rick passes a scorched chest and hears a WHEEZING noise. He
puts up his hand and they all stop. He pulls his gun, swings
open the chest, causing a TIBETAN MONK to tumble out along
with two dozen empty goat-bladder flasks. This is TEQUILA.

O'CONNELL

Looks like they missed one.

EVELYN

Is he dead?

Rick leans to check his pulse. Suddenly, Tequila lets out a
God-awful BELCH. Rick backs away, disgusted.

O'CONNELL

He's not dead. He's drunk.

UNDERWATER - TROUGH - DAY

Tequila's face plunges into view and his eyes pop open with
bleary shock. He's yanked back out. Rick smiles.

O'CONNELL
Rise and shine, Tequila.

EXT. MONASTARY - DAY

Tequila has dried off and sits on a stool in his saffron-and-maroon-colored monk's attire. Lily translates for Rick and Jonathan while Alex and Evy pack the mules in the b.g.

LILY
When the Japanese came, he was meditating in a cave. His lama had banished him there to sober up.

JONATHAN
Gives new meaning to "cold turkey".

O'CONNELL
Ask him if he can lead us over the Devil's Gorge?

Lily translates.

TEQUILA
(to Lily in Tibetan)
Crazy round eyes! Never. It's suicide.

LILY
(to Rick)
He's thinking about it.

Rick pulls out some money, fans it in front of Tequila.

JONATHAN
For God's sake, Rick, he's a holy man. He can't be bribed.

Tequila greedily snatches the cash, says something to Lily.

LILY
He says he'd be honored to show us the way.

As Tequila heads away, Rick turns to Jonathan.

O'CONNELL
Better pick up another mule and a six pack of yak juice for the road.

MONTAGE - EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

TEQUILA -- leads the way through a mist-wreathed forest.

A ROARING WHITE-WATER RIVER -- the party gingerly leads its mules across a flimsy bamboo-and-vine footbridge.

A SHEPHERD BOY -- stares with amused wonder as the gang trudges past, headed towards the cloud-capped mountains.

THE CARAVAN -- is silhouetted against the sky as they traverse the treacherous snow-covered spine of a mountain.

MOUNTAINSIDE -- sharp snowflakes cut the party's progress as they wade through banks of pure-white powder. They're now wearing heavy fur-lined coats and boots.

RICK AND EVY -- emerge through the clouds onto an undulating plateau of snow and stare in awe at the surrounding peaks.

TEQUILA -- leads the party single file along a narrow snow-covered path. It snakes around the near-vertical face of a gorge. Suddenly, the path disintegrates from under him. Lily just manages to reach out and wrench him to safety. As the group leaps over the three-foot hole, CAMERA FOLLOWS some dislodged rocks as they tumble into the clouds 1,000 feet below. As the rocks pass through the clouds, CAMERA REVEALS

THE EMPEROR MUMMY'S JUNK

barreling down the jade-colored river below. As the rocks CLATTER ACROSS the moss-covered boulders, the Emperor Mummy looks up into the clouds, curious.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

It's sheltered under an arching overhang. Evy studies a map by lantern light. Alex catches her stealing glances at Lily, who stands by the fire conferring with Tequila.

ALEX

Mum, you've been watching Lily round the clock. What's going on?

EVELYN

I'm not sure, but how well do you really know her, Alex?

Before he can answer, Lily and Rick join them.

LILY

Tequila says we should make it to the Devil's Gorge by noon.

O'CONNELL
Good. Let's get some shuteye.

Alex follows Rick.

ALEX
Dad, if you want to bunk with Mum,
I could sleep with Lily.

O'CONNELL
(patting him on shoulder)
Nice try, kiddo.

Defeated, Alex steps to Lily, who's getting into her tent.

ALEX
So if you need anything. I'll be
right over there. Just holler or
whistle or knock on my flap.

Lily smiles.

LILY
Good night, Alex.

As Alex sighs, CAMERA FINDS Jonathan and Tequila sitting by the fire. Tequila rolls his eyes as Jonathan takes another swig of yak wine.

JONATHAN
That stuff's not bad.
(puckering lips)
Once you get used to the vomit-like
aftertaste.

Jonathan hands back the flask and steps to Rick. Tequila attempts to take a drink, but finds the flask is empty. As he angrily tosses the flask into the fire...

O'CONNELL
Jonathan, you take the first watch.

JONATHAN
Don't worry, Tequila's got it
covered.

Rick looks over and sees Tequila with his eyes closed.

O'CONNELL
Looks like he's sleeping.

JONATHAN

He's in a very deep state of meditation. If you approach, he'll spring into action, he's got the reflexes of a tiger. Trust me, we couldn't be in safer hands.

As they head into their respective tents, CAMERA STAYS ON TEQUILA. As he begins to SNORE...

INT. RICK & ALEX'S TENT - NIGHT

Alex is practicing his gun-drawing technique with his shadow.

O'CONNELL

Getting ready for a gunfight?

Alex spins and finds Rick at the threshold.

ALEX

Just practicing. Which one do you think I should carry? The Remington or the Colt.

O'CONNELL

It's funny, you look like my son, but he speaks twelve dead languages, spends most of the time in the library, and hates guns.

ALEX

Yeah, well, I realized that girls aren't interested in that kind of guy.

O'CONNELL

By girls you mean Lily.

Alex slumps onto his sleeping bag.

ALEX

I've been in love with her since the first time we met. I think she likes me, too, but there's something holding her back. I finally figured out what it is.

(beat)

She wants me to be more like you.

O'CONNELL

Alex, when I was your age, I was a macho jerk who wandered around the world looking for a good time.

ALEX

Yeah, but you were heroic and always saved the day and women were throwing themselves at you, right?

Rick shrugs, modestly.

O'CONNELL

Well, yeah, sure.

ALEX

We share the same genes, Dad, so my heroic side's got to be in there somewhere. How do I find it?

Rick looks at Alex, it's everything he's ever wanted to hear from his son, but he weighs his response carefully.

O'CONNELL

You really want my advice?

ALEX

I'm in your hands.

O'CONNELL

Be yourself, Alex. If Lily doesn't recognize what a great guy you are, then she's not the one.

OFF this father-and-son moment...

INT. EVY & LILY'S TENT - NIGHT

Evyn and Lily are in sleeping bags. Both reading by lantern light, Evyn casually looks up from her book.

EVELYN

Alex was telling me that Tibetan is one of the most difficult languages to master. Yours is excellent.

LILY

I've been studying it at university.

EVELYN

Is that so, because when I called they had no record of you being registered in any department.

Only now does Lily look up.

LILY

Why are you checking up on me, Mrs. O'Connell?

EVELYN

Because nothing about you seems to add up. You lied about being a student and you took an interest in Alex just when he started searching for the Emperor.

Lily holds Evy's gaze.

LILY

My intentions are as noble as yours.

EVELYN

What about Alex? You know he's madly in love with you. I'd hate to think you're using him.

LILY

I care deeply about your son, Mrs. O'Connell. That's the truth.

EVELYN

Alex may be well-travelled, but he's naive when it comes to affairs of the heart. If you hurt him, you're going to have to answer to me.

(beat)

Good night, Lily.

OFF Lily shaken, as Evy turns off the lantern.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

As the light goes out in Evy and Lily's tent, CAMERA TRACKS THROUGH the flurrying snow. It DRIFTS PAST Tequila, who's fast asleep and now has tiny icicles dangling from his nostrils. It CONTINUES into the bleakness until it FINDS TWO EMERALD GREEN EYES watching the camp from the shadows.

EXT. DECREPIT JETTY - TSANGPO RIVER - DAY

The crewmen bow as Okumura leads the Emperor Mummy down the gangplank. They join Major Suki and the Tibetan Monk.

MAJOR SUKI

He says this is the Ladder of Heaven. It leads to the Temple.

They stare up at the crumbling stone staircase that zigzags up the sheer cliff face. The Emperor Mummy and Okumura follow as Suki and the Monk lead the ascent.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Tequila guides the O'Connells up a steep snowbank and onto the crest of a 1,000-foot-wide chasm. He nods to Lily.

LILY

This is it. The Devil's Gorge.

As they cross to the gondola that's perched on the edge of the precipice...

EXT. LADDER TO HEAVEN - DAY

The Emperor Mummy and Okumura are followed by an entourage of JAPANESE SOLDIERS. Suddenly, a section of the steps breaks away, sending Major Suki and the Monk plunging to their deaths. The Emperor Mummy puts his hand on the cliff and replacement slabs ERUPT out of the stone. As he climbs on...

EXT. DEVIL'S GORGE - DAY

The gondola is suspended on a rope connected to two wooden towers on either side of the chasm. It's shaped like a boat and its extravagantly painted sides are faded with time.

INT. GONDOLA - DAY

Rick and Alex sit in the bow, furiously turning the handles of a set of wooden winches. Evy, Lily, Jonathan and Tequila sit behind them with their weight evenly dispersed.

JONATHAN

Come on, lads, put your backs into it. We haven't got all day.

Rick and Alex exchange a look.

O'CONNELL

It would be a lot easier if we had one less passenger.

Jonathan turns away, chastised. He looks over the side and peers through a patch of torn clouds and sees that the valley 3,000 feet below is covered with evil-looking stalagmites.

JONATHAN

Why don't I give you boys a hand.

As he makes his way to the front of the gondola, there's a horrible snap. All look up as the rope BREAKS and the gondola plummets into the clouds.

JONATHAN

We're all going to...

The gondola smacks down on the very edge of the gorge. It teeters for a moment, then dips forward and surfs down the mountain.

JONATHAN

....diiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiie!

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The gondola powers through the snow, picking up speed. It SLAMS across a plain of moguls, jackhammering everyone inside. The plain narrows into

A SMOOTH-WALLED CHANNEL OF ICE.

Like an oversized toboggan, the gondola tears down the narrow chute. As the passage opens up, the gondola flies across a 30-foot chasm. It doesn't stop as it SMASH-LANDS back to earth. It plows on, RIPS a path through the lines anchoring 1,000 tattered prayer flags before

CRASHING

to a stop in a massive snowbank. There's an EERIE SILENCE before Rick pops out of the snow and finds himself staring into the eyes of a skull. It's one of a million that are embedded in the walls of the TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS.

O'CONNELL

I think we found our temple.

It looks like a square-tiered wedding cake and is crowned with a golden stupa. The structure is perched on the edge of a ridge overlooking the Valley of a Thousand Waterfalls. The others join Rick as he stares out at the breathtaking vista.

EVELYN

Looks like we beat them here.

ALEX

The Emperor's only got until dawn tomorrow to become immortal or he turns to dust.

Rick pulls a Thompson machine gun from a saddlebag.

O'CONNELL

Let's roll out the welcome mat.

EXT. LADDER OF HEAVEN - DAY

The Emperor and Okumura climb the last step and smile as they peer at the Temple of Whispering Skulls. As they trudge across the gravel to the front door, the soldiers follow.

INT. BALCONY - TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

As the wind WASHES across the skull walls, it creates a GHOSTLY WHISPERING sound. Rick, Evy, Jonathan, Alex and Lily are positioned along the balcony overlooking the entrance, their weapons trained on the Emperor Mummy. Tequila sits in a corner, madly spinning a handheld prayer wheel, as Rick gives the signal and they OPEN FIRE!

CAMERA FOLLOWS a line of bullets. As they SPIRAL towards the Emperor Mummy, the gravel in front of him springs up and forms a tight, defensive wall which absorbs the DEAFENING assault. As their guns RATTLE empty, the O'Connells peer through the smoke and look at the wall in shock.

O'CONNELL

There's a neat trick.

The Emperor SNAPS his fingers, causing the gravel wall to split apart and rocket towards the Temple. They dive for cover as the fury of granite projectiles EXPLODES through the skull walls in an ecstasy of shattered bone and teeth. As they scramble up, Alex looks around and realizes Lily's gone.

ALEX

Where's Lily?

EXT. TURRET - TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

Lily puts her flame-shaped silver pendant to her lips and blows. A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLE echoes across the valley.

INT. INNER COURTYARD - TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

Rods of light cut through the riddled walls as Rick, Evy, Alex and Jonathan barrel towards the back door. Before they reach it, the door flies open and THREE JAPANESE SOLDIERS stride in. Our heroes spin back just as the Emperor Mummy and Okumura sweep in. Rick and the others drop their guns and put up their hands in surrender.

OKUMURA

I'm afraid this is where your
adventure ends, Mr. O'Connell.

As he raises his weapon, a paint-peeling HOWL reverberates. They look up and see a 10-FOOT YETI on the roof of the courtyard, silhouetted against the sun.

JONATHAN

What on God's earth is that?

TEQUILA

(terrified)

Yeti.

Four more Yeti join the CHORUS and leap onto the surrounding turrets. Despite their size, they move with fast, ape-like agility. They're covered head to toe in thick white fur and have piercing emerald-green eyes. As their lethal saber-tooth jaws suggest, they're far from cuddly. The Yeti spring down into the courtyard, causing the building to shake as they land, and go on the attack.

A Yeti grabs two Japanese Soldiers and effortlessly flings them into a wall, knocking them out.

Jonathan and Tequila take cover behind a giant gong as mayhem ensues.

A Yeti somersaults in front of Rick and Alex, yanks them into the air, and is about to slingshot them when Lily issues it a SHARP GUTTURAL ORDER. It obeys, unceremoniously drops them to the floor, and springs away. Rick looks at Alex.

O'CONNELL

She speaks Yeti?

Alex is just as shocked.

ALEX

Apparently.

Lily sees the Emperor Mummy heading for the stairs. She unsheathes her dragon dagger and hurls it. CAMERA FOLLOWS as it spins through the chaos and nails the Emperor Mummy in the shoulder. He ROARS in pain and light explodes out of his wound. He wrenches the blade free, stares at Lily in surprise, then whips the weapon back at her. She dives away and the dagger is impaled in a column. Concerned, Okumura races to the Emperor's side and places the Eye in his palm.

OKUMURA

You must put the eye in the stupa.

With his eyes still fixed on Lily, the Emperor Mummy heads for the stairs.

ALEX

Come on, Dad! We can't let him get
to the roof!

Rick follows Alex. He's almost caught up when Okumura steps out from behind a statue and SMASH-PUNCHES him in the gut. Rick flies back into a wall of skulls, winded. Then he darts out of the way as Okumura comes at him again. Okumura's metallic fist PULVERIZES a skull.

Rick swings a punch, but Okumura catches it and CRUSHES Rick's hand. Suddenly, a long brass candlestick WHIPS across Okumura's back. He angrily spins and finds Evy. He violently HAND-RAMS her in the chest, sending her SLAMMING into an altar, knocking her out.

O'CONNELL

Evy!

Enraged, Rick barrels into Okumura and the fight is on!

The Emperor Mummy is marching across the balcony when a Yeti leaps in front of him. Fearless, the Emperor Mummy grabs the Yeti by the throat and instantly freezes the beast!

The Yeti tumbles back through the wooden railing and SMASHES into a couple of Japanese Soldiers who are stalking Lily in the courtyard below. As the Emperor Mummy continues his climb, Alex is revealed following.

Rick and Okumura slug it out against the frame of a massive bronze prayer wheel. Okumura's fist SPLINTERS the wooden supports, freeing the wheel which powers across the courtyard like an ANCIENT STEAMROLLER. As they continue to battle,

LILY

trades martial-arts moves with a Japanese Soldier. In an awesome display, she spin-kicks the guy into a Yeti, who picks him up and javelin-throws him into the giant gong.

As it BOOMS, Jonathan and Tequila emerge, shaking. Jonathan sees the prayer wheel THUNDERING towards them. He tackles Tequila out of the way. As the wheel BULLDOZERS through the wall, they're buried in a mound of skulls.

Okumura pummels Rick with a series of brain-numbing punches. Finally, Rick slumps to his knees, spent. Okumura smiles.

OKUMURA

Once the Emperor is immortal, all
Americans will bow at my feet.

As Okumura jacks his arm back to deliver the death blow, a Yeti grabs it. Okumura SCREAMS as the creature catapults him straight over the temple wall.

EXT. LADDER TO HEAVEN - DAY

Okumura flies over the cliff and plummets towards the clouds. As he falls, he reaches out and grabs onto one of the stone steps with his metallic hand.

INT. COURTYARD - TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

Rick grins up at his furry savior.

O'CONNELL

I owe you one, buddy.

Rick scrambles over to Evy, who is coming around.

EVELYN

I'll be fine. Go help Alex.

As Rick heads up the stairs, Jonathan and Tequila pull themselves out of the pile of skulls. When they turn, they come face to face with a Yeti. As they SCREAM, the Yeti SCREAMS back and they're blasted by spit and noxious breath. Terrified, the duo hurtles out through the hole in the wall.

EXT. STUPA - TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

The Emperor Mummy is climbing the steps that run up the golden domed stupa. Alex is lining up a shot, has him dead in his sights, when Rick bursts out from below. The Emperor Mummy spins, points to a bronze flagpole. It RIPS free, flies through the air headed straight for Rick.

ALEX

Dad! Watch out!

Alex pushes Rick out of the way and CRIES OUT as the pole impales him like a spear. Rick looks over as Alex collapses.

O'CONNELL

Alex...

Rick kneels at Alex's side, realizes he's dying.

O'CONNELL

Hang on. You hear me!

Rick sees the Emperor Mummy has made it to the top of the stupa. Rick whips out four sticks of dynamite, ties them with a bandana and torches their fuses. He stands.

O'CONNELL

Taste some 20th-Century firepower,
you bastard!

He hurls THE IMPROMPTU BOMB. It SPIN-SPARKS through the air and right over the Emperor Mummy's head. He looks at Rick mockingly as it EXPLODES in midair and its BOOM ricochets across the mountains. The Emperor Mummy turns back. He's about to slot the Eye into place when a DEEP REVERBERATING CRACK echoes and a massive shelf of snow begins

AVALANCHING

down the mountain towards the temple. PUSH IN ON RICK as he smiles with satisfaction.

O'CONNELL

Ain't Mother Nature a bitch.

PUSH IN ON THE EMPEROR MUMMY as he realizes he's in seriously deep shit. He opens his mouth in a FURIOUS ROAR.

ANGLE ON AVALANCHE as a giant impression of the Emperor's roaring face appears out of the snow.

INT. COURTYARD - TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

As the sound of the avalanche RUMBLES, the Yeti freeze. Lily pulls the dragon dagger from the column as she shouts to Evy.

LILY

Avalanche! Take cover!

As Evy dives under the altar, Lily CLUCKS an order to a Yeti.

EXT. STUPA - TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

The Emperor Mummy slows the avalanche's progress, but the exertion is taking its toll. He grimaces in pain.

ANGLE ON AVALANCHE. The snow impression of the Emperor Mummy's face reacts in confusion, then crumbles. Now the wall of snow speeds unfettered towards the temple.

As the Emperor stands defiant, Rick hugs Alex. A Yeti leaps up as the avalanche SLAMS into the stupa, scoops Rick under one arm and Alex under the other. It springboards away as the Emperor Mummy is swept away in the freezing tsunami.

EXT. TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

The tidal wave of snow washes overhead as the Yeti, clutching Rick and Alex, hits the ground. Jonathan and Tequila aren't so lucky, they stare in horror.

JONATHAN/TEQUILA

Oh dea--/Holy shi--

Their cries are lost as they are caught up in the torrent.

EXT. LADDER TO HEAVEN - DAY

Okumura has hauled himself up and is catching his breath when the avalanche vomits towards him. OFF his panic...

EXT. TEMPLE OF WHISPERING SKULLS - DAY

The last of the white wave washes over the temple, leaving it submerged in snow. SILENCE descends. CAMERA PANS TO REVEAL a Yeti sniffing the air with his bear-like nose. He takes three steps, punches into the snow, and yanks out Jonathan and Tequila. They dangle upside down.

JONATHAN

Well done, you big ugly brute. A St. Bernard couldn't have done better. Although I don't suppose you come with one of those little barrels of brandy, do you?

The Yeti SNARLS and drops them. They pick themselves up and race to Evy and Lily, who climb out the front door. Evy sees Rick cradling Alex; horrified, she runs over. He's deathly pale and a circle of blood stains the snow.

O'CONNELL

Come on, Alex! Say something!

Alex looks up weakly.

ALEX

I'm sorry... I didn't stop him.

His eyes roll back as he loses consciousness.

O'CONNELL

You're not dying on me!

Evy cradles Alex's head in her hands.

EVELYN

Sweetie, stay with us.

Rick looks at her, distraught.

O'CONNELL
I can't stop the bleeding.

Lily steps in, flanked by the Yeti. She looks at Alex, anguished, makes up her mind.

LILY
We'll take him to Shangri-La.

O'CONNELL
That's going to be kinda hard without the Eye.

LILY
I'll show you the way.

O'CONNELL
How are you gonna do that?

Evy studies Lily's face, it all starts to make sense.

EVELYN
Because Shangri-La is her home.

OFF Rick's stunned reaction...

EXT. VALLEY OF A THOUSAND WATERFALLS - DAY

Waterfalls cascade as far as the eye can see. The party is escorted by four Yeti while the one carrying Alex leads the way. Rick steps to Lily's side, looks at his son.

O'CONNELL
How's he doing?

Lily CLUCKS to the Yeti carrying Alex. It CLUCKS back.

LILY
He's weak but holding on. He was brave to do what he did. He must get that from you.

Ricks smiles sadly. Lily gently strokes Alex's face.

LILY
If I had destroyed the Emperor, Alex would be okay.

EVELYN
Is that what you've been trying to do?

She nods.

LILY
I'm sorry I couldn't be honest with
you or Alex. But I was sworn to
protect Shangri-La at all costs.

EVELYN
Why are you breaking that promise
now?

Lily looks at Alex, then at Evy, finally confesses.

LILY
Because I love your son.

The Yeti holding Alex stops in front of a raging waterfall
and gently places Alex in Rick's arms.

LILY
The Yeti are the guardians of
Shangri-La, but they cannot enter
the realm.
(re: waterfall)
Step through.

INT. GROTTO - DAY

Their distorted silhouettes are visible through the rippling
curtain of water. They emerge on the other side bone dry.
Lily crosses to the beautiful lotus-shaped fountain that
bubbles up in the middle of the cavern.

EVELYN
The Spring of Eternal Life.

Lily cups a handful of water and splashes it across Alex's
wound. They watch as Alex miraculously heals.

ALEX
Mum... Dad.

Evy looks at Lily.

EVELYN
Thank you.

Alex GROANS as he sits up. Rick and Evy smile, relieved.

ALEX
Where are we?

O'CONNELL
Your girlfriend's place.

ALEX
Dad, she's not my girl--

Before he can finish, Lily kisses him, overjoyed by his recovery. As he blushes in delight, TWO ROBED MEN appear.

LILY
First you must disarm, no weapons
or worldly possessions are allowed
in Shangri-La.

Lily gestures to the golden cauldrons that are piled against the walls. Some contain weapons while others overflow with gold, diamonds and priceless jewels.

JONATHAN
This place makes Hamunaptra look
like a piggy bank.

EVELYN
No sticky fingers, Jonathan.

Rick pulls out an inordinate number of guns and knives that are hidden on his body, realizes everyone is staring at him.

O'CONNELL
What?

EXT. SHANGRI-LA - DAY

Now disarmed, the gang steps out and stares in wonder at the valley below which is lined with terraces of paddy fields, tropical orchards and silky waterfalls. A village of pagoda-like houses sits on the banks of a glimmering lake.

JONATHAN
Now this is more like it.

AN OMINOUS GONG booms across the valley.

LILY
My mother's ready for us.

INT. ROYAL PAVILION - SHANGRI-LA - DAY

A WOMAN, in a distinctive embroidered silk robe, stands on a balcony. Only when Lily enters does the Woman turn and we see it's ZOHORA. She hasn't aged a day in over 2,000 years.

ZOHORA

My child.

They warmly embrace. Lily hands her the dragon dagger.

ZOHORA

Has the Emperor been destroyed?

LILY

There were a few complications.

Zohora reacts as the O'Connells, Jonathan and Tequila enter.

JONATHAN

You've got quite a place here.

(as Evy elbows him)

But I'm sure you already knew that.

LILY

Without their bravery, the Emperor would have discovered Shangri-La.

ZOHORA

I understand, but I let you out into the world to prevent the Emperor's return. You were not to involve mortals.

O'CONNELL

Believe it or not, some of us mortals have experience in the mummy department.

ZOHORA

I am well aware of your family's exploits, Mr. O'Connell. Which is why I sent Lily when I learned your son was searching for the Emperor's tomb.

Guilty, Lily looks at Alex.

LILY

Alex, I wanted to tell you, but--

ALEX

It's easier to say you don't date colleagues than admit you're an immortal from Shangri-La. I understand.

Lily smiles, relieved. Rick looks at Zohora.

O'CONNELL

The Emperor may be down, but he's not out. He still has twelve hours to find this place.

ZOHORA

I've already dispatched a party of Yeti to retrieve the Eye. Without it, he cannot find the Spring and break the curse.

O'CONNELL

With all due respect to your furry friends, they're no match for a mummy.

ZOHORA

No one knows the Emperor better than I do, Mr. O'Connell. I'm the one who cursed him.

(off their surprise)

I found the Book of the Dead. As a reward, the Emperor stabbed me and murdered the only man I ever loved.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. HIMALAYAS - NIGHT

Zohora rides through the blinding snowstorm.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

I escaped into the night and rode for days.

Weak, she finally topples off her horse and lands in a powdery drift, still clutching the terra cotta Book of the Dead. A shadow falls across her face. She looks up and sees the outline of a Yeti silhouetted against the moon.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

The Yeti found me as I lay dying.

INT. GROTTO - DAWN

ZOHORA (V.O.)

They sensed I was with child and brought me to the Spring.

The Yeti gently lays Zohora next to the GURGLING Spring.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

I knew I wouldn't survive the night, so I used the Book to enchant the Spring. Whoever drank from it would become immortal.

Zohora WHISPERS an incantation from the Book, causing the Spring to bubble with light. As Zohora drinks, the CAMERA FOLLOWS a trail of water as it flows out and cascades into...

EXT. VALLEY - DAWN

The bleak ice landscape undergoes a magical transformation. Trees and vegetation sprout, maturing in seconds, melting the snow which forms the sparkling lake.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

And so Shangri-La was born. It's a Yeti word that means "valley of dreams". I saw it as a utopia from a world that grew crueller by the day. Here we would be safe from the Emperor and tyrants like him.

The frozen waterfalls that ring the valley begin to gush.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

Over the centuries, the Yeti brought lost and dying travellers to the Spring.

We see a motley collection of people step through the waterfall from every race and era: CRUSADER KNIGHTS, RENAISSANCE TRADERS, VICTORIAN EXPLORERS.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

All chose to stay and make this their home...

INT. GROTTO - SHANGRI-LA - DAY

A new arrival, FU, wears his threadbare imperial robes. He tosses his purse into one of the golden cauldrons.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

... except one. He was among our first inhabitants. An imperial eunuch named Fu. He expressed gratitude that I'd freed him from the Emperor's tyranny, but secretly he wished to bring his master back.

INT. ZOHORA'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

While Zohora sleeps, Fu climbs through the window and crosses to the Book of the Dead which sits on her desk.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

So he stole the Book of the Dead.

EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

Fu gallops along a narrow mountain path overlooking a river when a Yeti leaps in front of him. As Fu tries to spin back, another Yeti nails him in the heart with the dragon dagger.

ZOHORA (V.O.)

The Yeti tracked him down, but the Book was lost to antiquity.

Fu SCREAMS as his body rapidly ages. As his wizened corpse falls from the saddle, the backpack with the Book tumbles over the cliff and drops into the river below.

UNDERWATER - DAY

The book slowly twists into the darkness.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. ROYAL PAVILION - SHANGRI-LA - DAY

ZOHORA

I feared that someday it would be found and used to raise the Emperor. Now that day has come.

O'CONNELL

Well, I'm not going to wait around here until he comes knocking.

Zohora nods her understanding.

ZOHORA

If you insist on facing the Emperor, you're going to need this.

She hands him the dragon dagger.

ZOHORA

It's the dagger he stabbed me with. I enchanted the blade. It's the only weapon that can kill an immortal. But it must pierce his heart.

Rick nods his thanks, then turns to Evy.

O'CONNELL

Come on, Evy.

(to Alex)

Alex, you stay here with Jonathan
and Tequila.

As Ricks steps to the door, Alex blocks his way.

ALEX

Dad, I'm going with you.

O'CONNELL

You almost died out there. I won't
let that happen again.

ALEX

I can take care of myself. You
have to stop treating me like a
child.

O'CONNELL

Sorry, I'm your dad. It's an
occupational hazard.

OFF Alex's frustration as Rick and Evy head out.

EXT. CLIFF FACE - DAY

CAMERA SWEEPS UP PAST the remains of the Ladder of Heaven and
FINDS Okumura struggling up the sheer rock face with his
metallic arm. He finally pulls himself over the top.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

As he lies PANTING, he sees FIVE YETI watching his
predicament. As they step towards him holding spears, one of
them stops, sniffs the air, as though sensing danger. With
shocking suddenness, two giant arms formed of snow reach out
of the ground, grab the creature by its legs, and

YANK

it straight down into the snow. In violent succession, the
other Yeti are pulled under until they've vanished. The arms
morph into the Emperor's dragon insignia. Okumura scrambles
away as the insignia melts and

THE EMPEROR MUMMY

is revealed lying in the circular pit. His torso is crazed with cracks and half his face has broken off, revealing his maggot-infested skull and brain. Still clutching the Eye, he walks up the smooth-walled trench that magically melts before him. It leads straight to the top of the stupa.

Okumura watches as the Emperor Mummy places the Eye into the circular depression that's hollowed out of the bronze flame that still graces the top of the stupa. As

SUNLIGHT

hits the Eye, the flame glows and a circle of emerald light explodes out across the valley. Slowly, the band narrows until it's a single line of light which pinpoints one of the waterfalls on the far side of the valley. OFF the Emperor Mummy's smile of satisfaction...

EXT. WATERFALL - DAY

Rick and Evy step out from behind the THUNDERING cascade and are greeted by TWO YETI GUARDS. As one leads Rick and Evy up the path snow begins to swirl. Rick looks up as the sun is smothered by black storm clouds. OFF this ominous portent...

EXT. JETTY - LAKE - SHANGRI-LA - NIGHT

Fireflies dance across the water. Lily stands in the golden moonlight with her back to Alex as he approaches.

ALEX

I'd give a penny for your thoughts,
but you don't allow money in here.

When she doesn't turn, he comes around and sees tears shimmering down her face.

LILY

Alex, this isn't going to work
between us.

ALEX

Look, if it's the age difference?
Because I have no problem dating an
older woman.

She puts a finger to his lips.

LILY

You have to understand I'm going to
live forever. I'll be here until
earth's dying light.

ALEX
Then I'll drink from the Spring,
too. We can watch the end of the
world together.

LILY
If you did that, you could never
leave Shangri-La. I know you,
Alex, you couldn't spend eternity
stuck on the sidelines.

ALEX
Come back to Shanghai, it's not
paradise, but at least we'll have
each other.

LILY
I can't leave here again and I
can't ask you to stay.

Distraught, she walks away. Alex calls after her.

ALEX
Lily, wait! There must be a way.

Lily looks back, her heart breaking.

LILY
I'm sorry, Alex.

As she heads off, teary eyed, CAMERA FINDS Zohora watching.
OFF her look of maternal resignation...

INT. LILY'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Zohora enters and finds Lily lying on her bed. Zohora
gently sits on the edge of the bed.

ZOHORA
I knew that once I let you into the
world that you wouldn't want to
return. You have your father's
restless spirit.

Lily wipes her tears as she slowly turns to face her.

LILY
Out there I felt emotions I never
had. Fear, exhilaration...

ZOHORA
... love?

Lily nods.

ZOHORA

Do you want to spend the rest of
your life with Alex?

LILY

I'd like the chance to find out.

ZOHORA

Are you prepared to sacrifice your
immortality?

LILY

If only that were possible.

ZOHORA

It is.

Lily stares in surprise as Zohora holds up a small blown-glass bottle containing an aqua-blue liquid.

ZOHORA

Once you drink this, you can never
return to Shangri-La.

LILY

Mother, why are you doing this?

Zohora looks into her daughter's eyes.

ZOHORA

Because after 2,000 years, I think
it's time you chose your own
destiny.

OFF this emotional moment...

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - NIGHT

Snow is coming down thick and fast. A bitter wind WAILS. Rick and Evy struggle through the blizzard when the Yeti walking in front of them is suddenly yanked into the snow. Rick spins back, catches a glimpse of the Emperor Mummy and Okumura. As he races towards them, "snow arms" burst up and wrap around his legs. As he is dragged down, Rick grabs the

DRAGON DAGGER

and slices through the arm that's pulling him under in a spray of hot steam and white light. As another "snow arm" twists up, Rick cuts it in two and dives for Evy. He grabs her arm a second before she is yanked under.

It's a desperate tug-o'-war but finally, he pulls her torso free and hacks the arm that's holding her. As the amputated "limb" thrashes like a beheaded snake, Rick and Evy take off after the Emperor Mummy.

INT. GROTTO - NIGHT

Moonlight filters through the curtain of water as the silhouettes of Okumura and the Emperor Mummy appear. They step through and the Emperor Mummy stares at the Spring.

OKUMURA

Your search is finally over, my Lord.

The Emperor slowly turns to face him, smiles.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Kneel and swear allegiance to me.

OKUMURA

(confused)

But we had an agreement. I am to rule by your side.

The Emperor Mummy pokes his finger into Okumura's forehead. His skin smokes like it's been seared by a cigarette lighter.

EMPEROR MUMMY

There is only one emperor.

In agony, Okumura falls to his knees and bows.

OKUMURA

I serve only you.

The Emperor Mummy removes his finger, steps into the Spring of Eternal Life and hungrily gulps the water. As the water courses over his body, it sparkles with energy. A new brain forms in his broken head, a new eyeball sprouts and skin grafts across his cracked torso. He ROARS in triumph...

EMPEROR MUMMY

The world is mine.

As he fills a silver flask with Spring water...

INT. CHAMBER - NIGHT

Jonathan and Tequila are wrapped in towels, lying side by side, getting massages from a QUARTET OF STUNNING GIRLS.

JONATHAN

Now this is what I call paradise.

Suddenly, the shutters blow open and their breath fogs.

JONATHAN

Is it me or did it just get chilly?

They peer out the window and see a wave of ice sheeting out across the valley from the mouth of the cavern.

EXT. SHANGRI-LA - NIGHT

Terrified RESIDENTS run in panic as Jonathan and Tequila burst out, half naked. They struggle to put on their clothes as they race over to Alex.

ALEX

The Emperor's here.

JONATHAN

Where are your parents when we need them?

(realizing)

Oh God, I hope nothing's happened--

ALEX

You can't think that way, Uncle Jon.

Zohora and Lily run up.

ZOHORA

You must leave Shangri-La. Lily will show you the way.

ALEX

I'm not going anywhere.

LILY

Alex, if you try and fight the Emperor here, you'll lose.

ZOHORA

The Emperor will return to his palace and use the Spring water to raise his army. You must unlock the River of Spirits before his warriors reach the Great Wall.

ALEX

River of Spirits?

ZOHORA

That's the only way to stop them. Lily will explain.

The ice sweeps across the lake towards the village.

ZOHORA

Now go! The fate of the world
depends on you.

As they race away...

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Total chaos. People SCREAM as ice washes down the street, freezing everything in its path. As Zohora spins back, she sees the Emperor Mummy. His eyes flash with surprise.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*Zohora, I thought your bones would
be dust by now... but you're as
beautiful as the day you betrayed
me.*

ZOHORA

*My only regret is that I didn't
kill you when I had the chance.*

EMPEROR MUMMY

*Then I would never have met your
daughter. She possesses your
beauty and her father's courage.
She will make an even better queen
than you.*

Zohora reacts in desperation.

ZOHORA

*Your fight is with me. Spare Lily
and my people. I beg you.*

The Emperor Mummy smiles menacingly as he steps closer.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*They shall feel the full wrath of
your curse.*

Her terrified subjects watch as the Emperor Mummy grabs Zohora and kisses her. He stands back and watches as the terra cotta curse washes over Zohora and her people.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - NIGHT

Rick and Evy race through the blinding snow and arrive at the entrance to Shangri-La, but find the Yeti Guard dead and the waterfall frozen solid.

RICK
We're too late!

Evy pounds on the solid ice curtain, grief stricken.

EVELYN
Alex!

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Alex and the gang run with a THRONG through the trees. Suddenly, the crowd suffers the same fate as the warriors in the opening and turn to terra cotta. As the path opens onto a waterfall, Jonathan stops, untouched by the curse.

JONATHAN
Why didn't we turn into lawn ornaments?

ALEX
The curse must only affect immortals.

They all turn to Lily. She holds up the glass vial Zohora gave her. It's now empty. Alex realizes her sacrifice.

ALEX
Oh God, Lily, I never meant for you to--

LILY
It's okay, Alex. It was my choice to make.

The moment is broken by the sound of ice CRACKLING through the jungle. They scramble through the waterfall and into...

INT. CAVERN - NIGHT

Lily points to a tunnel.

LILY
Follow the trail, it'll lead you out through the mountain.

She steps back to the waterfall.

ALEX
Where are you going?

LILY
I won't let my mother face the Emperor alone.
(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
 (kissing him)
 I love you.

She dives back through the waterfall just before it freezes.

ALEX
 Lily, no!

Alex races forward, POUNDS the ice wall, but it's futile.

EXT. VILLAGE - SHANGRI-LA - NIGHT

Lily runs past the petrified citizens until she sees the Emperor Mummy standing in front of Zohora's terra cotta form.

LILY
 Mother!

She lunges at the Emperor Mummy. But Okumura intercepts her and forces Lily to her knees.

LILY
I'll never bow to you.

EMPEROR MUMMY
I don't expect you to bow. I expect you to share my bed and pay for your mother's sins.

OFF her look of defiance...

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Sunlight bleeds across Alex, Jonathan and Tequila as they trudge over the harsh, windswept snowscape.

JONATHAN
 Exactly how far is the Emperor's palace?

ALEX
 About a thousand miles.

JONATHAN
 Perfect, so if we don't die of frost bite, we should be there sometime next year.

A BUZZING SOUND ECHOES.

JONATHAN
 Hopefully, that's a herd of Yeti to the rescue.

As the sound GROWS LOUDER, Alex shouts...

ALEX

GET DOWN!

All dive as two silver cargo planes ROAR overhead.

EXT. FROZEN LAKE - DAY

The Emperor Mummy and Okumura wait with Lily as the planes touch down on the ice.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*Machines that can fly. I often
dreamt of such a thing.*

As the Emperor Mummy, Lily and Okumura head for one of the planes, they pass 10 wooden mule carts piled with the treasure-filled cauldrons from Shangri-La. As SIX JAPANESE SOLDIERS begin loading the cauldrons into the other plane...

EXT. RIDGE - DAY

Alex, Jonathan and Tequila cautiously creep up to the edge and peer down into the valley. Alex catches sight of Lily as she disappears up the gangplank of the plane.

ALEX

Lily!

He's about to charge after her when a hand pulls him back. Alex spins in surprise and is overjoyed to find

RICK AND EVY!

ALEX

Mum! Dad! Thank God.

All embrace. Rick looks down at Lily's plane as it begins to taxi across the lake, then turns back to Alex.

O'CONNELL

We'll get her back, son. I
promise.

OFF Alex's distress as the plane lifts off...

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

The Japanese Soldiers have paired up and are struggling to carry the last three cauldrons into the plane.

INT. CARGO PLANE - DAY

The Soldiers put the cauldrons down. They're catching their breath when Rick erupts out of a cauldron in an explosion of coins and fists. He punches out two of the Soldiers and grabs their guns as they crumble. Then Evy and Alex burst up and punch out another two Soldiers. However, the last two Soldiers swing up their weapons. A tense stand-off.

O'CONNELL

Now would be a good time, Jonathan.

Jonathan pops out of a cauldron behind the Soldiers, brandishing a jewelled scepter, and takes them both out.

JONATHAN

The old Ali Baba trick, works every time.

O'CONNELL

Where the hell were you?

JONATHAN

(re: scepter)

Sorry, got a little distracted.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

The PILOT is checking the gauges when the nose of a machine gun digs into his neck. PULL BACK TO REVEAL RICK.

O'CONNELL

Change of flight plan.

EXT. RUNWAY - DUSK

As the plane soars into the cloudless sky, REVEAL the six Japanese Soldiers shivering in the snow in their underwear.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Moonlight flashes off the plane's metallic body as its propellers CHURN through the clouds at 20,000 feet.

INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT

Tequila is drinking sake while Jonathan is conferring with the Pilot in pigeon Japanese. Rick enters.

JONATHAN

My Japanese is a little rough, but he says we're not far from the Emperor's palace.

O'CONNELL

Don't take your eyes off him.

Jonathan awkwardly holds up his gun.

JONATHAN

He's going to feel my gaze boring
into the back of his head.

Rick steps back into...

INT. CABIN - CARGO PLANE - NIGHT

... Evy and Alex are waiting.

ALEX

Zohora said we had to unlock the
River of Spirits. It's the only
way to stop the warriors.

O'CONNELL

Chinese history is your forte,
kiddo. Any idea what she was
talking about?

ALEX

The Emperor threw the bodies of his
enemies in a river that stretched
thousands of miles across China.
Legend has it that he slaughtered
so many people, the river ran dry.

Evy's mind whirs as she puts it together.

EVELYN

The water may be gone, but the
spirits of the dead still flow
through it. Where is this river?

ALEX

There.

Alex points out the window as the plane banks revealing the
Great Wall in the distance.

ALEX

The Emperor built the Great Wall
over it.

EVELYN

So the Wall's really a giant tomb.

Alex nods.

ALEX

The Emperor must have feared that the vanquished spirits would come back and seek revenge. He built the Wall to keep them in.

O'CONNELL

Great, all we've got to do is unlock this ghost river before the mummy and his terra-cotta army take over the world.

EVELYN

Thankfully nobody's spent more time in tombs than the three of us. Or at least, anyone with a pulse.

An EXPLOSION booms up from the ground. They all rush into...

INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT

Rick grabs binoculars and looks out the window.

WHAT HE SEES: A fireball consuming a railroad bridge that traverses a wide desert chasm. As the bridge collapses...

The Pilot uses the distraction to surreptitiously reach under his seat and unsheathe a razor-sharp dagger.

O'CONNELL

Looks like a railroad bridge. Guess they don't want anyone gatecrashing the palace.

The plane tilts.

EVELYN

We're veering off course.

JONATHAN

(to Pilot)

Hey, no funny business.

When he nudges him with the gun, the Pilot slumps back, revealing the dagger protruding from his chest.

JONATHAN

Bloody hell, he's stabbed himself!

ALEX

He committed hara-kiri. It's a Japanese ritual.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

They believe it's more honorable to kill yourself than face the humiliation of capture.

JONATHAN

That's crazy! The honorable thing to do is to land the plane first, then kill yourself.

Rick pushes the dead Pilot out of the chair. As he takes the controls, the steering column comes off in his hands.

O'CONNELL

Okay, this isn't good.

They hear a WHISTLE, turn and find Evy holding a parachute.

O'CONNELL

Do we have enough?

EVELYN

Almost.

SMASH CUT TO:

CAMERA TRACKS ACROSS RICK, EVY AND ALEX wearing parachutes until it FINDS Jonathan and Tequila strapped together, facing each other, sharing a single chute.

TEQUILA

(Tibetan with subtitles)

Why do I have to share with this idiot?

JONATHAN

Tequila's a little nervous, you three go first.

Rick looks at Jonathan, suspicious.

O'CONNELL

(re: cauldrons)

Jonathan, no gold.

JONATHAN

Perish the thought.

He waits as Rick, Evy and Alex jump from the plane.

JONATHAN

We're just going to take a few souvenirs for the road.

He drags Tequila over to a cauldron and stuffs gold coins and handfuls of jewels into his pockets. Finally, he grabs the scepter in one hand and a gold Buddha statue in the other. Tequila shoots him an angry look.

JONATHAN

What? This one's for you.

Before he can get his hands on anything else, the plane lurches, sending the duo tumbling out the door.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

They spin into the darkness. Jonathan tries to pull the cord, but can't reach it because his hands are full.

JONATHAN

Pull the cord!

TEQUILA

I have no idea what you're saying!

He looks down to see the other three parachutes open.

TEQUILA

Where is our flowering plume of cloud?

JONATHAN

PULL THE BLOODY CORD!

He begins making hand gestures which further confuse Tequila. Then over Jonathan's shoulder, Tequila sees the pilotless plane swing around and head straight for them.

TEQUILA

The metal bird! It's going to kill us! Do something!

He starts wildly pointing.

JONATHAN

DON'T POINT! PULL!

As the plane careens towards them, Tequila SCREAMS.

JONATHAN

For God's sake, hold these!

He thrusts the treasure into Tequila's hands and pulls the cord. As the parachute sprouts open, they are violently jerked up, missing the propeller by a hair.

Tequila drops the treasure as he SCREAMS. They finally stabilize and watch the plane EXPLODE into the desert below.

JONATHAN

Well, that was a close shave.

Tequila shakes his head.

TEQUILA

*In another life, you must have been
a goat.*

As they drift towards the golden sand below...

EXT. GOBI DESERT - DAWN

Rick, Evy and the Gang crawl to the crest of a ridge and stare in shock at what lies below.

WHAT THEY SEE: The Emperor Mummy's palace. LEGIONS OF SLAVE WORKERS have almost completely excavated it. The army of 100,000 terra cotta Warriors gleams in the early morning sunlight while the Great Wall looms in the distance.

EVELYN

Oh my God.

ALEX

This should have taken years to excavate.

A CHINESE VOICE booms through a series of crude loudspeakers surrounding the complex. The Slave Workers shove each other as they desperately climb onboard a train that's waiting on the tracks next to the palace. They're supervised by an ENTOURAGE OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS, some on motorcycles.

O'CONNELL

Why is everybody rushing for a seat on that train?

ALEX

Because they're being told they're going back to Shanghai.

Rick follows the tracks, realizes.

O'CONNELL

Between here and Shanghai is a bombed-out railroad bridge.

EVELYN

They're not going to free them, they're going to kill them.

O'CONNELL
Not if we can help it.

ALEX
Dad, look!

Rick swings back and watches as a big, onyx-colored convertible sweeps in through the palace gates.

EXT. COURTYARD - PALACE - DAY

The convertible glides to a stop. The Emperor Mummy, Lily and Okumura climb out. Okumura gestures to the Warriors.

OKUMURA
Your army, my Lord.

The Emperor Mummy nods his approval. CAMERA TRACKS THROUGH THE ROWS OF WARRIORS as the trio heads across the courtyard.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

As the last slave car is locked with a THUNDEROUS CLANG, a SOLDIER signals the DRIVER...

INT. ENGINE CAR - TRAIN - DAY

... who puts the throttle into "full open", chains the "reverser", and jumps free as the train GRINDS into motion.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

As the train pulls away, Rick, Evy, Alex, Jonathan and Tequila are revealed crouching on the other side.

O'CONNELL
(to Evy)
You and Alex warn the slaves.
(to Jonathan & Tequila)
We'll get to the engine car.

Using the steam as camouflage, they clamber onto the train.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY (MOVING)

The train THUNDERS across the desolate landscape. GO WIDE TO REVEAL it's speeding for the decimated railroad bridge. As Rick, Jonathan and Tequila head across the carriages to the engine car, Evy and Alex run the other way to the slave cars.

INT. SLAVE CAR - TRAIN - DAY (MOVING)

Slats of sweaty light dissect the space. The Slave Workers are packed in like animals, among them is Chang, the resistance fighter from Shanghai. A GUNSHOT RINGS out, the hatch in the roof slides open, and Alex stares down.

ALEX

(Chinese with subtitles)

My name is Alex O'Connell and I'm here to help.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY (MOVING)

The train is picking up speed as Rick leaps from a carriage onto the coal car. Jonathan and Tequila follow. Tequila loses his balance on the loose coal. Rick is oblivious as Jonathan struggles to pull Tequila back on.

INT. ENGINE CAR - TRAIN - DAY (MOVING)

Rick swings in, pulls his gun, BLASTS the chain off the "reverser", and slams the throttle onto "BRAKE".

CLOSE ON WHEELS: As they SPARK across the gleaming tracks.

The bridge is coming up fast. 50 feet. 40 feet. 30 feet. Jonathan's still trying to pull up Tequila.

JONATHAN

Don't worry, little buddy.

TEQUILA

Buddha save me!

INT. SLAVE CAR - TRAIN - DAY (MOVING)

Evy is crouched with a group of Slaves, holding her breath.

INT. ENGINE CAR - TRAIN - DAY

Rick grits his teeth as the behemoth sweeps onto the bridge and crawls to a stop an inch from the twisted end of the track. OFF Jonathan yanking Tequila back up...

EXT. COURTYARD - PALACE - DAY

The Emperor Mummy, Okumura and Lily stand at the foot of the palace stairs. The Emperor Mummy surveys his army, then runs a finger through Lily's hair. He doesn't take his eyes off her as he orders Okumura to...

EMPEROR MUMMY

Take my queen to my bed chamber.

OKUMURA

I am a general, not a servant.

EMPEROR MUMMY

*Do as I command or my warriors will
wet their blades with your blood.*

Okumura angrily nods, then leads Lily up the stairs.

EXT. COURTYARD - PALACE - DAY

The Emperor reaches for the flask of Eternal Spring water. He pours some into his cupped palm. A black funnel cloud twists up from his hand and into the sky.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The Soldiers stand in awe as they watch the massive black storm cloud blossoming. Suddenly, they hear a CLATTERING sound, turn and see the train barrelling back down the tracks! As they race towards it, WEAPONS BLAZING...

INT. ENGINE CAR - TRAIN - DAY (MOVING)

... Rick, Jonathan and Tequila are crouched. Rick fires his machine gun at the tank of a fuel truck parked near the tracks. It DETONATES, setting off a CHAIN REACTION OF EXPLOSIONS. Japanese Soldiers flail as they are consumed.

TWO JEEPS burst through the fireball and power onto the tracks in front of the train. The SOLDIERS OPEN FIRE but jump as they realize the train isn't stopping. Jonathan and Tequila cower as the train plows through the vehicles which EXPLODE, sending fiery tongues of flame into the engine car.

EXT. TRAIN CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Using the smoking melee for cover, Alex chooses his moment, then leaps off the train and roll-dives into the sand. As he cautiously makes his way towards the palace...

INT. ENGINE CAR - TRAIN - DAY (MOVING)

Rick is about to get up when GUNFIRE sparks. The train is being chased by TWO SOLDIERS on motorcycles. He RETURNS FIRE, sending both vehicles cartwheeling into the air. Unseen by Rick, another SOLDIER zooms up on the other side. The Soldier has him in his sights when he is blown away! Rick turns as Evy swings into view, her machine gun smoking.

O'CONNELL
Not bad for a librarian.

EVELYN
(looking around)
Where's Alex?

Rick looks back at the palace, concerned.

O'CONNELL
Oh God. He went to save the girl.

EVELYN
How do you know?

O'CONNELL
Because that's what I'd do.

EVELYN
(to Jonathan & Tequila)
Get everyone onto the Wall. Hold
the army back as long as you can.

JONATHAN
Wait! Where are you two going?

Rick hands Jonathan and Tequila machine guns.

O'CONNELL
Stop the Mummy, rescue our son and
save the world.

OFF Jonathan's alarm as Rick and Evy jump off the train...

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

THUNDER BOOMS and forking veins of lightning flash through
the swirling storm cloud. Suddenly, it unleashes a

DEAFENING DELUGE.

Alex is creeping through the Warriors when the raindrops
HAMMER down. Their bodies glow and they utter INHUMAN WAILS
as they painfully come to life. A second before their eyes
pop open, Alex dives through a door.

EXT. PALACE - DAY

The Emperor SNAPS his fingers, causing the rain to stop and
the ominous cloud to dissipate. He stares at the rows of
living terra cotta Warriors before him.

EMPEROR MUMMY

You have slumbered too long. The reign of the Dragon Emperor begins today. We will bring the world to its knees.

Steam rises as the sun hits the Warriors' bodies. They ROAR and BEAT their weapons against the flagstones.

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

Jonathan and Tequila are helping the Slaves out of the train when the Warriors' BATTLE CRY echoes across the desert.

JONATHAN

Everybody onto the Wall!

Chang makes his way through the throng.

CHANG

I thought you were a lover, not a fighter.

JONATHAN

Not today.

They smile, then scramble up onto the Wall.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A JAPANESE SOLDIER has his back to the CAMERA, peeing. As he zips up and turns around, the butt of a machine gun smacks him in the face. As he drops unconscious, REVEAL Rick. He plucks a set of keys from the Soldier's pocket and steps to Evy, who is waiting by the guy's motorcycle.

O'CONNELL

You wanna drive?

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The Emperor Mummy watches as his army advances across the sand like an unstoppable flood. But his face darkens when

A MOTORCYCLE

powers up over a dune and beelines towards the oncoming army. Evy is driving and Rick is on the back holding two machine guns. Evy THROTTLES the engine, ramps off a boulder, and launches the bike right over the front line of chariots. As she weaves through the infantry, Rick BLASTS all comers. One warrior loses his arm, another legs, another his head. Rick watches as their wounds miraculously heal.

O'CONNELL
They're indestructible!

A barrage of arrows shoots towards them.

EVELYN
Incoming!

They duck as arrows WHIZ over their heads. As Rick and Evy ROAR through the palace gates, the Emperor Mummy shouts to a SQUAD OF FIVE TERRA COTTA WARRIORS. The Warriors follow as the Emperor Mummy sweeps back towards the palace.

INT. EMPEROR'S BEDCHAMBER - PALACE - DAY

Dust clings to the giant brass lantern suspended from the ceiling and the silk curtains that drape the bed are now in tatters. Lily struggles as Okumura straps her to a bedpost.

OKUMURA
You're a fiery one, perhaps I
should tame you for the Emperor.

ALEX
Get away from her.

Okumura turns to find Alex standing with his gun aimed.

LILY
Alex!

OKUMURA
Schoolboys should stay at home.

Alex is rattled by Okumura's laser-cool demeanor.

ALEX
I swear to God, I'll shoot you.

OKUMURA
I don't believe y--

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Alex unloads his gun. The bullets SMACK Okumura in the chest. He stumbles back. Then he grins and looks up. Alex and Lily watch in disbelief as he rips open his shirt and the bullet wounds heal themselves.

LILY
He drank from the Spring.

Okumura pulls off his glove, revealing that his metallic appendage is gone and his arm is now fully restored.

OKUMURA

I couldn't let the Emperor have all the fun.

LILY

Alex, run!

ALEX

I'm not leaving you.

Okumura smiles, impressed by Alex's bravery.

OKUMURA

Your father would be proud. Too bad you won't live to tell him.

As he lunges at Alex and the gun goes skittering...

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

Jonathan and Tequila look out as the army swarms across the desert, cutting down the last of the Japanese Soldiers.

JONATHAN

We're sitting ducks up here. How are we going to hold back an army of marauding mummies without any weapons?

A BANGING SOUND echoes. Jonathan turns in surprise and sees Chang and his men using a makeshift battering ram to SMASH down the door of one the Wall's turrets.

INT. TURRET - GREAT WALL - DAY

Jonathan and Tequila burst inside and are stunned to see the place is stacked, wall to wall, with every kind of ancient weapon. Spears, crossbows, miniature cannons, etc. As the slaves arm themselves, Jonathan turns to Chang, amazed.

JONATHAN

Who the hell put these in here?

CHANG

Every emperor for the last twenty centuries. They filled the turrets with weapons as an offering to the River of Spirits.

Jonathan grins.

JONATHAN

Score one for Chinese superstition.

EXT. COURTYARD - PALACE - DAY

Rick and Evy are halfway across the vast expanse of stone when the Emperor Mummy sweeps through the gates with his Warriors. The Emperor Mummy's mouth distends and he unleashes an 80-FOOT JET OF FLAME. Rick looks back as the tongue of fire forms into a roaring dragon's head.

O'CONNELL

Step on it, Evy, I think we're
really starting to piss him off.

As the dragon "snaps" at Rick's back, Evy powers up the palace steps and skid-turns through the doors.

INT. PALACE - DAY

As they head down the hall, "the dragon" torpedoed into the wall behind them, blistering the paintwork, and evaporates in an orgy of sparks...

EXT. COURTYARD - PALACE - DAY

The Emperor Mummy's elongated mouth angrily shuts. He looks around and sees the Japanese Soldiers' discarded motorcycles. He gets an idea and BARKS an order to his five Warriors.

INT. EMPEROR'S BEDCHAMBER - PALACE - DAY

Okumura SLAMS his fist into Alex, knocking him against a column. Alex peers over at Lily, anguished. Okumura catches the exchange.

OKUMURA

Remember that pretty face when I'm
choking the life out of you.

Alex finds new strength, HEAD-BUTTS Okumura.

ALEX

At least I won't spend eternity as
the Emperor's lap dog.

Enraged, Okumura backhands Alex, sending him flying across the floor. Alex lands right next to the gun. As Okumura strides towards him, Alex wrenches the weapon into view.

OKUMURA

For someone so educated, you're not
very smart. I'm bulletproof.

Alex FIRES. The bullet BUZZES past Okumura.

OKUMURA

That's your best shot?

ALEX

I wasn't aiming at you.

Suddenly, Okumura hears the rope holding the giant brass lantern SNAP. He looks up in horror as the lantern falls towards him. He doesn't have time to run, as he is impaled by the ornament's pointed end. As he desperately struggles to free himself, Alex unties Lily and they race out...

INT. HALL - PALACE - DAY

... they're sprinting down the passage when they hear the SOUND of a motorcycle. They spin just as Warrior #1 powers into view. As he speeds towards them, Lily spin-kicks him off the bike in an incredible martial-arts move. Warrior #1 tumbles across the floor while his motorcycle skid-slides to a stop. Warrior #1 springs back to his feet, draws his sword, stalks towards them just as Evy and Rick SCREECH around the other corner and SMASH through him like a pinata. Evy smokes the bike to a stop in front of Alex and Lily.

O'CONNELL

You kids okay?

ALEX

Yeah, sure. No problem. Had it completely under control.

They all smile.

EVELYN

Lily, can you get us to the River of Spirits?

LILY

There's a tunnel that connects the palace to the Great Wall. I'll show you the way.

Rick sees the pieces of shattered Warrior sliding together.

O'CONNELL

Let's move before Humpty Dumpty puts himself together again.

Lily and Alex climb onto the Warrior's bike. Rick tosses Alex a machine gun as Lily REVS the engine and takes off.

INT. BED CHAMBER - PALACE - DAY

Okumura is still struggling to free himself when a shadow crosses his face. It's the Emperor Mummy.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Where is my queen?

OKUMURA

My lord, please... help me.

The Emperor Mummy looks at him scornfully, places his hand on the brass lantern and superheats it, causing molten metal to sluice out across Okumura, searing his flesh.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Your failure shall be your tomb.

Okumura SCREAMS in torment as he is encased in hot brass. With one breath, the Emperor cools the scorching metal to a hard shell. The sculptural outline of Okumura's body is visible and his immortal WALLS are muffled. The Emperor Mummy shakes his head.

EMPEROR MUMMY

Generals.

INT. HALL - PALACE - DAY

Lily and Alex are leading the way while Rick and Evy follow right behind. As they speed through a doorway, they're intercepted by Warriors #2 and #3 on motorcycles.

As Warrior #2 powers forward, Rick UNLOADS his machine gun and blows the Warrior's head clean off, sending the headless Warrior into a wooden column. Evy follows Lily, with Warrior #3 in hot pursuit. As Lily darts her bike into...

INT. WAR ROOM - PALACE - DAY

The trio of motorcycles shoots through the time-ravaged room. Lily drives straight over the ancient map that still stretches across the floor and RIP-TEARS through the faded dragon tapestry that conceals the entrance to...

INT. SECRET PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Lily and Evy flash on their headlights, revealing a sloping, carved-out space. Rick and Alex's MACHINE-GUN FIRE strobos the blackness as Warrior #3 follows. Suddenly, the bikes catch air. Rick and Alex hold on as they touch down on a giant staircase. Evy and Lily don't slow as they speed down the stairs, headed towards the

TUNNEL BELOW.

Ignoring the bone-jarring ride, Rick FIRES blindly at Warrior #3 and blows out his front tire, causing Warrior #3 to be catapulted off his bike. Warrior #3 somersaults over their heads and lands at the base of the stairs. As he struggles up, Evy and Lily power the bikes right over him. His damaged bike follows, SLAMS down on top of him and EXPLODES.

O'CONNELL
(disdainful)
Mummies on motorcycles!

Suddenly, GUNFIRE strafes the walls. Rick swings back just as a motorcycle with a sidecar bursts through the fireball. Warrior #4 is in the sidecar manning a mounted machine gun while Warrior #5 drives.

EVELYN
(to Alex and Lily)
Go ahead! Unlock the River! Don't worry about us.

As Lily and Alex speed away, Rick returns fire...

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

Jonathan, Tequila and the slave army watch anxiously as the terra cotta Warriors charge towards them. Chang chooses his moment, then signals...

CHANG
Now!

The Slave army unleashes their assault. Cannonballs, flaming arrows and spears fly. Jonathan and Tequila stand side by side, machine guns BLAZING. Tequila is a man possessed.

TEQUILA
(Tibetan with subtitles)
Die! Terra cotta bastards, die!

As he reloads he hears a voice...

LAMA
Tashi?

He finds his ELDERLY LAMA with a group of TIBETAN MONKS. Their robes are tattered from their enforced labor. Tequila immediately falls to his knees.

TEQUILA
Holy lama.

LAMA
 (re: machine gun)
*Have you forgotten your vow of
 nonviolence to all living things?*

Tequila gestures to the Warriors.

TEQUILA
They're not living, they're undead.

The Lama considers this.

LAMA
*You have gained much wisdom on your
 journey here.*

As the monks pick up weapons and join the raging battle.

CAMERA FOLLOWS A CANNONBALL as it arcs towards the oncoming army and EXPLODES through a line of Warriors, blowing off arms, legs and heads. CAMERA DOESN'T STOP, PLUNGES INTO THE GROUND, and BURSTS OUT through the roof of...

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

... Lily and Alex streak past while Evy and Rick follow behind. Evy is desperately weaving, trying to avoid the lines of gunfire Warrior #4 is directing at them. Rick's machine gun finally CLICKS empty. He tosses it at Warrior #5, momentarily blinding him, sending the motorcycle SPARKING against the side of the wall.

Rick pulls a stick of dynamite from his belt, lights the fuse and tosses it to Warrior #4, who catches it and studies it curiously. KABOOOM! Warrior #4 and the sidecar are blown to bits. Unfortunately, Warrior #5 and the rest of the bike speed through the debris, unscathed, and continue the chase.

LILY AND ALEX -- have pulled ahead, peel through a circular entrance to a cave-like chamber and skid to a stop.

ALEX
 Come on!

They leap off and begin rolling the huge circular stone door across the entrance. As the door begins to close,

EVY & RICK

are still battling it out with Warrior #5. He finally pulls even as they head towards the entrance at breakneck speed. Rick and the Warrior begin exchanging blows. With only 50 feet to go, Warrior #5 grabs Rick in a chokehold.

EVELYN

Keep your hands to yourself!

Evy slams the bike into the Warrior's, forcing him to let Rick go. As Warrior #5 tries to regain control of his bike, Evy races forward, SQUEEZE-SPARKS through the entrance a second before Alex and Lily roll the door into place. As Warrior #5 CRASHES into the slab in a CACOPHONY OF FIRE...

INT. WAR ROOM - PALACE - DAY

The Emperor surveys the tire tracks leading into the secret passageway. OFF his face as he strides into the passage...

INT. CHAMBER OF SPIRITS - DAY

CLOSE ON A TORCH as it flickers to life. PULL BACK TO REVEAL Rick, Evy, Alex and Lily taking in the cavernous room. Steps lead up to Great Wall's massive foundations that protrude from the roof of the cavern.

O'CONNELL

Those stairs must lead straight up to the Wall.

They head onto a red marble bridge that traverses a dry riverbed. Evy holds her torch over the side, revealing a horrifying mass of human skulls and bones.

EVELYN\

The River of Spirits.

O'CONNELL

Great. But I don't see a key anywhere?

ALEX (O.S.)

Over here.

They turn and see Alex and Lily standing by a circular stone altar. Evy and Rick race over.

CLOSE ON ALTAR: It features a bowl-like indentation in the center which is engraved with a Chinese inscription.

LILY

It says "Quench my thirst".

Evy takes her flask and empties the water into the bowl. They wait for something to happen, but nothing does. Alex suddenly gets an idea, pulls out a pocket knife and slices his palm. Evy reacts in alarm.

EVELYN

Alex!

Alex holds his bleeding hand over the altar.

ALEX

It wasn't a river of water, it was
a river of blood.

The drops of blood splatter into the bowl like acid on lead. The Chinese inscription glows and a fierce wind whips. All the torches die and a DEEP RUMBLE ECHOES. The gang turns as a wave of rippling, blue-white light rushes out and fills the dry riverbed. They cautiously approach and peer in awe.

WHAT THEY SEE: The ghostly forms of the Emperor's SLAIN ENEMIES rage as they swim under the river's ethereal surface.

O'CONNELL

Nice work. But why aren't they up
there taking out the warriors?

LILY

Because we need to make another
offering.

They look back at the altar which is still glowing and watch as the central bowl vanishes and is replaced by five new indentions. Each is engraved with a different character.

EVELYN

The five elements, of course. We
need to place one in each bowl.

O'CONNELL

Fan out. We don't have much time.

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

The Slave army is fighting hard, but are outmatched and outnumbered by the invincible terra-cotta army. As the Warriors finally reach the foot of the Wall...

INT. CHAMBER OF SPIRITS - DAY

PAN ACROSS THE ALTAR. The earth, stone and fire bowls are full. Evy drops her wedding ring in the fourth. She shouts to Rick and Alex who are on the other side of the River.

EVELYN

All we need is water!

Alex retrieves a flask from the motorcycle.

ALEX

Got it.

As he tosses it across the River of Spirits, there's a deafening boom and the circular door EXPLODES open. Rick grabs Alex, dives for cover as the slab of stone flies across the space and OBLITERATES the bridge. As the dust settles, they see the Emperor Mummy standing in the threshold.

O'CONNELL

(shouting)

Evy, pour the water!

As Evy scrambles for the flask, the Emperor Mummy holds up his hand and fires a FLAMING COMET at the altar, which knocks all the elements out of their bowls.

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

Tequila and Jonathan stand with the monks, firing futilely at the terra cotta Warriors scrambling up the walls like insects. As they duck to reload, Jonathan turns to Tequila.

JONATHAN

I think it's time for a prayer.

TEQUILA

(Tibetan with subtitles)

I hate you.

JONATHAN

Amen to that, brother.

INT. CHAMBER OF SPIRITS - DAY

Evy and Lily frantically put the elements back in the bowls while the Emperor MACHINE GUNS flaming orbs at Rick and Alex.

EVELYN

In case we don't make it, I just wanted you to know that I think you and Alex make a great couple.

LILY

Thank you, Mrs. O'Connell.

EVELYN

Call me Evy.

(re: altar)

Four down, one to go. Have you seen my ring?

As they begin scouring the dirt...

RICK & ALEX -- duck behind a column as the orbs EXPLODE around them. Rick picks up a discarded torch. As the Emperor fires off a comet, Rick swings the metal rod like a baseball bat and line-drives the comet back at the Emperor Mummy. The EXPLOSION sends him crashing into a wall.

O'CONNELL
EVY, WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?

EVELYN
We don't have any metal. I can't find my ring.

ALEX
(getting idea)
Dad, give me yours.

Alex pulls his sling-shot out of his pocket.

O'CONNELL
I thought you hung that up when you were twelve.

Alex smiles, takes the ring. Rick looks back and sees the Emperor storming towards them.

O'CONNELL
The fate of the world's in your hands, kiddo. No pressure.

Alex takes aim, pulls back the sling and fires. The ring soars across the space in SLO MO. Ricochets off the wall, PINGS off a column and straight into the right bowl. BULL'S-EYE! The next instant the Spirits are unleashed and flood up through the foundation of the Wall in a firestorm of light.

O'CONNELL
That's my boy!

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

The terra-cotta Warriors are about to crest the Wall when the Army of Spirits washes over the Wall like a tidal wave, overwhelming the Warriors in seconds. The Workers CHEER and Jonathan and Tequila hug as the Spirits fly into the heavens, finally liberated.

INT. CHAMBER OF SPIRITS - DAY

The INHUMAN DEATH CRIES of the Warriors echo across the chamber. The Emperor Mummy stares up in shock and WALLS...

EMPEROR MUMMY

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

Using the distraction, Rick leaps up, clutching the dragon dagger, and plunges the enchanted blade into the Emperor Mummy's heart. The Emperor Mummy stares at Rick in shock.

O'CONNELL

Give my regards to Imhotep!

The Emperor Mummy utters A PRIMEVAL SCREAM as needles of white light fissure out of the wound. Rick and Alex are thrown back as the Emperor Mummy is ripped apart in a BLINDING SUPERNOVA.

EXT. SHANGRI-LA - DAY

A ring of light explodes across the valley, melting the ice and transforming its slopes to verdant green. As it washes across the petrified inhabitants, they are freed from the curse and jubilantly rejoice. OFF Zohora's proud smile...

INT. CHAMBER OF SPIRITS - DAY

As Rick and Alex pick themselves up, the whole place RUMBLES. It's like an earthquake. Cracks snake across the roof.

O'CONNELL

Up to the Wall! Now!

Evy and Lily dart for the stairs as Rick and Alex sprint across the dry riverbed, dodging falling debris as they go. The steps disintegrate behind them as they clamber.

EXT. TURRET - GREAT WALL - DAY

Evy and Lily burst into the sunlight. But as Alex and Rick race out, the turret collapses under them. As they drop,

HANDS

reach out and catch them -- Evy, Lily, Jonathan, Tequila and Chang. The Slave army CHEERS as the heroic duo are pulled to safety. As the dust settles, Alex turns to Lily.

ALEX

Now that you're mortal, I was wondering if maybe we could do something together that doesn't involve evil emperors or saving the world.

LILY

Is that your way of asking me out
on a date?

As he leans in and kisses her, CAMERA FINDS Rick and Evy.

O'CONNELL

Another mummy bites the dust.

EVELYN

You know, there's something about
vanquishing the undead that I find
incredibly romantic.

O'CONNELL

Me, too.

Rick takes her in his arms and they kiss. Jonathan and
Tequila look at the two couples and shake their heads.

JONATHAN/TEQUILA

Get a room/Get a room.

CAMERA SWEEPS OVER the Wall of overjoyed Slaves, SOARS UP
over the war-torn desert, and finally MELTS into the sunset.

FADE OUT.

THE END